

outta control

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

ISSUE TWENTY FOUR
FEBRUARY 1982

Sold with GAINING GROUND

Ireland 10p Outside Ireland 20p

NORBROKE UNION!

The dispute at the Norbrook Laboratories Ltd. has finally ended after 25 weeks. The local whizz-kid, Haughey, has won.

The dispute was centred around the work-force becoming unionised way back in August 81 when a few of the employees had been in contact with the ITGWU branch in Newry and had arranged for their first meeting. Five minutes before the end of that working day, Haughey paid off 7 of the workers who were involved in organising the meeting. The meeting went ahead with nearly everyone joining the Union. Martin King, local branch secretary of the ITGWU, attempted to have the seven people reinstated - NO chance, according to Haughey. So nearly everyone came out and a picket was placed at the gates, which has been going on 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, ever since.

At this time, Haughey's wife, who is a solicitor, applied for a court injunction against Martin King to stop picketing. This was granted, and two weeks ago he was sued for "unjustly calling a strike". An unprecedented verdict of guilty was obtained. King, as an individual, was ordered to pay a fine of £7,500 to Haughey for loss of business, plus costs which amount to over £20,000, making a grand total of nearly £30,000.

The effect of this court decision seems to go even further than the present labour relations Bill being pushed through by Tebitt, employment secretary. It effectively means that to strike is punishable / to refuse your labour is not on. A decisive blow against unions and what they stand for. The ruling is much more than a victory for local boy Haughey, but a victory for capitalism in its widest sense. The reactions of the unions, so far, is shock...they have six weeks to appeal or they can leave it and pray that no employer will ever sue which ever way, they haven't decided yet, but the implications are immense.

Haughey was determined to win from the start and as the strike persisted he kept on the students who were working part-time over the holidays. Twenty-seven of the other strikers were then dismissed in September. He started to employ scabs & consistently harrassed the pickets on the gate (as mentioned in Issue 22 of OUTTA CONTROL). Slowly, the rest of the workers returned to join those who hadn't come out, some drifted off to new jobs, & within a couple of months, the 7 were on their own, and stayed that way, until last week, when they gave up the picket.

This Is Your Life

Edward Haughey's rise to 'fame' started way back in 1969, when he formed Biochemical Laboratories Ltd., with 4 other

people. Since then, it has progressed from a house in Newry, through the Greenbank Industrial Estate, to a modern factory-complex on the Camlough Road. His ownership of the shares had increased consistently over the past 13 years. At present, he is one of the three shareholders. M. Pugh from Trinity College, Dublin, holds a mere 100 shares, a vet from Rathfriland owns 620 and the bold Edward the other 39,280 shares.

As the name changed to Norbrook Laboratories in 1971, his friendship with L.E. D.U. became closer as time went on - he opened the first LEDU-backed factory in the North and received a pat on the back in 1974 in the form of LEDUs "award to industry". In 1978 he made the jackpot with a cash grant of £130,000 which went quite a way to pay for his coffee/creamed colour ROLLS ROYCE.

An even funnier development over the past six years, and as the friendship with LEDU became more intimate, is that the bold Edward changed his citizenship (along with one of the other directors) from that of Irish to British.

Against this background and his attempts to keep his workers in a relationship that goes back to the last century, must make Haughey one of the most authoritarian and exploitative employers in the North.

DRUG SQUAD "RED-NECKED BASTARDS"

Cops bust you, judges sentence you simple. And it's made even more simple when it comes to drug offences. 'Evil and despicable' says the judge, sending people to prison for smoking grass a nod of delight from the red-necked drug squad with another year's overtime guaranteed. They get away with it, aided and abetted by a medical establishment whose literature does NOTHING either to inform us or to expose the horror stories pushed by those with a vested interest.

Take the latest offering from the 'Lancet' the respectable voice of British medicine. An ill-informed and naive article on magic mushrooms was recently given much media attention - but of course none of this 'analysis' seemed to discover the glaring inaccuracies and fallacies the 'Lancet' was pushing. Based on 49 1st-time users of magic mushrooms, who ended up in Glasgow hospitals, they discovered that 'over 95% had experienced euphoria' (shock, horror !!!) and 80% had their stomachs pumped out to make them think

twice before taking mushrooms again. (Stomach pumping is purely punitive...it serves NO medical function.) Not surprisingly, no-one suffered ill effects from the mushrooms the next day, merely the frightening experience at the hands of the quacks

The 'Lancet' backed up their scientific analysis with such scientific gems as the case of two people somewhere in Mexico dying prematurely sometime this century through mushroom poisoning or that there is a quantifiable lethal dose. They failed to mention that it works out at 2 sackfuls of mushrooms which would take a fortnight to eat and a very determined effort to get through!

The 'Lancet' reached 3 conclusions - Criminalise possession of magic mushrooms send them to prison; ban all books on the subject; and apply fungicidal sprays to areas where they grow. (They grow amongst the grass of the Law Courts!!!)

It's such utter tripe, masquerading as scientific knowledge that adds to the myths about drugs and allows old fools in black gowns, younger fools in striped suits or bleached hair to make a good living at putting us down. The Drug Squad are red-necked bastards.



McBride-with award-winning plant

**GLAD TO BE
GAY**

When I said earlier that a lot of people took it really well, you find out it's O.K., when you're verbally gassed, or wearing badges, but when you walk down the street with your arm round a fella, or sit in a bar with your arm round him, then there's actually different reaction. They feel threatened. When you carry a banner on a march, people don't mind, but if you link arms behind the banner they freak out and heckle you.

Then we came back to my area and later went to a pub. These fellas started on the barman 'When are you gonna get a red light' and this sort of thing. 'Why don't you get them to pack it in. Why don't they do it up an entry'. But the barman says 'It's none of your business and none of mine. They're welcome to drink in here.' And he walks down the bar. So I get up and say 'Are we offending you or some-

"There certainly has been very little pressure to ban it." So says our spokesman from the Dept of Education. Has he, or anyone else ever thought of asking the kids who have to endure such sadism?

KAMPFEN UND ANDERE HAUSER

ZUSAMMEN SIND WIR

WOLLEN LEBEN

TU

UNSER LIEBLICHSTES

ÜBERLEBEN DARF NICHT SCHULD SEIN

BOBBY SANDS PUB

HIER WOLTE DER SCHWARZE BLOCH

This one was cleared in September when the police drove the demonstrators into the traffic and one person was killed by a bus. Afterwards the house was bricked up and the inside and windows smashed by the 'forces of law n' order'.... *BERLIN 1981.*

MOPPING UP OPERATIONS....

THE Alliance for Safety and Health, a recently-formed national group, is having its first major Conference in Cork. No date has been set, other than 'sometime in March'. By the time you read this, it is hoped that JUST BOOKS will have further details.

NASTY NOXIOUS & TOXIC!

The Conference is to help co-ordinate activity against the many forms and uses of toxic chemicals in this country.

Already suggested workshops for the Conference include:

- * Toxic Dumping
- * Toxic products
- * New technologies
- * 3 Level Education and its role
- * Fishing and Toxic chemicals
- * Agricultural pesticides
- * Low-level radiation and heavy metals

Your suggestions for workshop topics & your contributions of those little bits of unknown info are welcome, please send to Box No 1240, Hamilton Street, Dublin 8.

We hope to be present at Cork also, so if you can't make it and have anything to contribute, we will pass it on at the Conference.

Multinationals and chemical companies are setting up and expanding in this country so fast that no body/group has yet been able to find out what is going on at all the various plants. We know few of the threats to workers and public safety from toxic chemicals, these chemicals occur in just about every industry there is, no matter how small-scale the industry.

The governments, both North and South, have bodies such as environmental Health and Safety standards bodies, which were set up to make sure that no mis-use of chemicals occurs. But, as in Bantry, Co. Cork, where GULF OIL bribed such bodies not to expose the true facts, what is needed is direct action by ourselves to expose, halt and be rid of all toxic chemicals and their users.

In the South, the IDA attracted many foreign companies to set up, with Tax-Free schemes, and extra large grants. Many of these companies are rejects from Europe and America, where strict control laws and public pressure forced these companies to get out. So, they packed up, got out and found 'virgin lands', such as Ireland, and the underdeveloped countries south of the Equator. As a result, OUR land, too, is becoming polluted, and many of our workers may never live to regret working with toxic chemicals.

In the North, too, the British government would do anything to show that they are creating jobs. De Lorean, which was so massive and incurred such capital costs, was to fool us into believing that they care about us, yet we all know what kind of criminal De Lorean is. Such a fuss is made every time a new job is created here yet we will all only ever be able to work



when there is no government to say whether we are working or not. They too, like the Southern government, have given us toxic industry, De Pont, Monsanto, Hoechst, Norbrook, Michelin, GoodYear, Courtaulds, BOC, Kilco Chemicals, ABC Hygex, JA Beck, Radication Ltd and Richardson Fertilisers Ltd., are but a few of those who use toxic chemicals of some sort, and yet very little ever reaches the public's ears about what really goes on at these plants.

Norbrook (which features in this and other Issues of OUTTA CONTROL) is the first of many to be exposed. But, there are many companies where worker and public safety is at risk: no real social conscience exists within these companies.

At COURTAULDS Rayon plant in Carrickfergus, workers were exposed to **carbon disulphide**, this can cause birth defects in workers' children. Courtaulds in England admitted there was an increase in the rate of heart disease amongst workers using disulphide.

In 1975 at the SHIPYARD, 40 asbestos workers remained alive out of 252 workers working with asbestos. 170 were expected to live by 1975.

At DU PONT, which today employs 1400 workers, many have reported an increase in miscarriages amongst wives of those working with **chloroprene**. Also, it is reported that a reduction in sperm numbers in men working with chloroprene also occurred. Chloroprene also causes cancer.

Workers at DE LOREAN get an extra £5 per week to work with **fibre-glass**. Is this justice? Has there ever been justice?

Public safety is another area where little research has been carried out. It is a very difficult area to work in as costly research can rarely be carried out. WE don't have the necessary funds. We rely on what YOU can tell us. Only then can we research further, exposing those who exploit and endanger us. For exposure is a necessary ingredient in fighting multinationals and the state they will soon control once they have bought off the religious and political figures in our country.

We are experiencing what Europe went through in the last 30 years. Let's learn from history before it is impossible to decide our own fate.

STATE MURDERS!

IN the last week of January, 2 incidents revealed that the document published by "Silent Too Long" will need to be continually extended. The British state will kill, with immunity in the Courts, anyone it considers a nuisance.

Derry

GARY ENGLISH, 19, and JIM BROWN, 17, were mown down by a Brit landrover last Easter Sunday in Derry. They were part of a crowd into which the jeep drove at 50mph (a conservative estimate). The two killers, Buzzard and Smith from the 2nd Royal Anglicans, were acquitted last week.

Five witnesses, including a BBC reporter Paul Clements, testified that the jeep brake-lights never came on, and that there was no rioting at the time of the landrover 'charge', but that the crowd were running away from the jeep.

Jim Brown was found 160 feet from the point of impact and Gary English was reversed over by a second jeep. He had 12 ribs broken.

Yet, Judge Hutton told the jury that because witnesses didn't see the brake-lights or the stoning, didn't mean that they didn't happen. Even better, he informed them that the pathologist's report on the injuries was 'irrelevant' (despite the defence claim that they were travelling at 35mph and braking.)

The trial and release in Crumlin Road Court led to outbursts of anger and frustration. Gary's father, Michael English, later said "You're just a spectator. There's nothing you can do if they tell lies, you just have to sit and listen."

He hoped the NCCLs more thorough investigations, under Lord Gifford, will soon be published.

ARMAGH

TONY HARKER, 21, was shot dead by the UDR in Armagh. He and a friend were 'acting suspiciously' outside a supermarket at 1am. The UDR 'thought' they saw a gun and opened fire. The first 2 shots missed, but the fatal 3rd one hit Tony in the back. No gun was found.

Tony Harker was well-known both by the local people and the 'security forces' as a thorn in the latter's side. In one issue of Republican News, his diary of harassment was published. Between Jan 18th and March 18th 1980 he was stopped on 70 occasions by patrols. Frequently held and abused, he was imprisoned for assault on the RUC and for wearing a tricolour badge in 'breach of the peace'.

His Diary was once used by a pirate radio in London: A reporter was in Belfast doing interviews when someone (who used the writings in political theatre) offered to read them. In later correspondence the reporter described the powerful impact such a catalogue of harassment had on listeners.

No-one in the UDR will ever be prosecuted and more young people will be murdered by the 'security forces' as long as Britain maintains this state.

THEATRE: The agitprop of the bourgeoisie?

MANY good pieces of theatre have within them the time-old struggle for freedom of the individual and community against exploitation, tyranny and authority. We live in a capitalist system which aims to keep things that way and stifle opposition to it. But there are many contradictions within it. Under our "democratic" society we have the apparent right to say what we like about it.

So we can write radical plays attacking the system, but it's another thing getting them put on at the straight theatres, which are largely funded by the state and put in the hands of the parasites in power

In Ireland, at present, we have few writers, poets, artists, etc., who permanently align themselves in the class struggle. Talented & dedicated people in the 'culture' field have been successfully censored or frightened off by the state (they hold the purse strings of their jobs). Creative working people are co-opted into state institutions where art, theatre are de-politicised and alienate people from their working-class backgrounds.

Watching Big Brother

Culturally, most of us rely on the capitalist state's reactionary T.V., radio, newspapers, cinemas, theatres, etc. Resources, paid for by us, are safely locked up and controlled by the state and its agencies and institutions, to be used only for the smooth running and reinforcing of the role of the state. Which makes it almost impossible for ordinary people to express themselves, except on their terms.

Censored

The world-acclaimed playwrights John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy always had a struggle to get their plays performed at all. Their masterpiece, *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* has only been performed three times in Ireland. On several occasions they were prevented from attending their own plays because they objected to the way directors diffused the political message of their plays. They had to picket outside the performances held in the Royal Court and 7.84 performance of *Dandeleur's Folly* at Queen's. They subsequently refuse now to write for the English theatre and formed their own community theatre in Galway to perform their plays.

Act Now

Radical theatre in Belfast through groups

like the People's Theatre in Ballymurphy and the Turf Lodge Fellowship have had their performances largely confined to the "nationalist" areas. (It is very difficult to perform in areas which are easily accessible to all.)

Martin Lynch, sparked off by Arden and D'Arcy, has, inside the Turf Lodge Fellowship Theatre, been writing and acting for several years. With the re-opening of the Group Theatre in the city centre, available for use to amateur groups, he was able to take several of his plays out of the ghetto situation and show them to a wider enthusiastic audience. His plays in an entertaining way dealt with working-class life, and his Republican Clubs/socialism/Stickie/interpretations of events. In the summer of 1980, having noticed his popularity, the Board of Directors at the Lyric Theatre appointed him resident playwright; then the Arts Council provided a bursary for a year of about £5000.

Cloth Caps Not Welcome

Working-class people rarely go to the Lyric theatre's irrelevant plays, and resented the thousands of pounds of their money used to subsidise the middle-classes who go to it. It was an astute move by the Lyric to employ him, and with reactionary directors like Sam McCready and producer Leon Rubin to trim away Lynch's "Political excesses".

Martin Lynch played the game to get his plays staged, hopefully without paying too high a price. Although there was a bit of confrontation in his latest play, with the excuse by the director that "It didn't work dramatically."

The play 'The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty' is based on Martin Lynch's personal experience, which is a very rare ingredient, and which gives him the edge over middle-class liberal playwrights (such as Stewart Parker) who largely leech off other people's experiences and whose fame is based not on a particular insight into the situation here, but because of the topicality of plays involving the troubles.

The Interrogation

The scenes depicting Ambrose's interrogations were powerful. The Special Branch began 'softly' but with the constant threat of violence. They later try to break him by humiliation and eventually give him a thorough beating. In the long periods between each 'interview' they hoped he would crack. Despite moments of panic and anger, he manages to keep his head steady.

Parallel to these sessions, are the antics of Willy Lagan, and a 'Coronation St.' interpretation of Springfield Rd. Barracks.

Willy is the fall guy. He has a speech impediment - constantly repeats himself, and leaves out every other word in a sentence. Lynch has taken a working-class char-

acter and has invited the middle class to laugh at him. Certainly, Willy makes jokes and shrugs off predicaments with a song (he's allowed his guitar in a cell!), but the Lyric audience laugh at him for being 'simple'. If he says so much as "Ah. fuck!" they split their sides. It is him Lynch uses to portray a vicious attack on those who died last year on hunger-strike. Willy, who no-one can take seriously, threatens to go on hunger-strike 'to the death'. "I'll have a big funeral, thousands there, tricolour over my coffin, be a martyr." This brings the SDLP, Alliance, Unionist voters, who pack the Lyric, to their knees with laughter.

As for 'A day in the life of the RUC', we are offered the most banal plot and lines outside of the Group Theatre. The woman constable is called a 'whore' by her work-mate, for jilting him in favour of a Brit, and says she's loose 'cause she's middle class and he's just working class. She slaps him and says 'never say that again'. Biting analysis of sexual relationships! In fact, the sexism in our society is constantly reproduced, without any attempts at commenting on it. I suppose Lynch 'tells it like it is'.

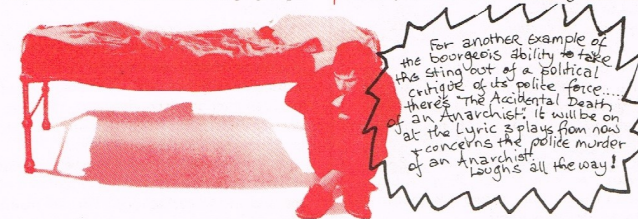
Any creative work ultimately reflects the politics of the person creating it. There is no such thing as an apolitical piece. Everything is political and ultimately Martin Lynch's politics are reflected in the play. His old Sergeant Knox, the woman constable and the man constable are treated sympathetically. After all, "They" are only human beings doing a job' as best as they can given the situation. He sees society will need a police force on the lines of Dixon in Dock Green. Well, Dixon was only a TV character. The old Sergeant the woman constable, the man constable, the Brit lieutenant and the two special Branch men are all in the same boat. They know what's going on, whether they choose to ignore it or not, and are cogs in the state's repressive machinery and are operated and controlled with the state's approval and knowledge. The RUC man or soldier may individually be mister nice guy, but when ordered to pull the trigger or put the boot in by the boss will do so, or just ignore it whilst someone else does it. The old excuse of 'just doing a job' is not on. Every individual is responsible for their own actions.

The police's role is to protect the capitalist state, its wealth, power, property and privilege, that are gained through the exploitation of us. The police acting on behalf of the public interest is bull-shit, especially here in the North where they have been stripped of this pretence and shown to be sectarian and anti working-class.

THE NEW INTERNMENT

REMAND prisoners in Crumlin Road prison (Belfast) can spend 1½ years awaiting trial. Just Books are attempting to send in a regular supply of books to these 'internees'. Donations of money or 'ideologically-sound' paperbacks' (new or second-hand) would be much appreciated.

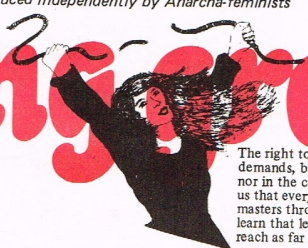
JOHNNY McQUADES contribution to the Kincora debate in Parliament "There have been allegations made about some of my constituents and I want to sort this out and find these allegators."



For another example of the bourgeois ability to take the sting out of a political critique of the police force... there's *The Acid Dental Death* of an Anarchist. It will be on at the Lyric & plays from now & concerns the police murder of an Anarchist. Laughs all the way!

gaining ground

**Sold with
Outta Control**



The right to vote or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls nor in the courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

WE HAVE BEEN..... SILENT TOO LONG

A couple of weeks ago, a booklet entitled "Silent too Long" was published by the "Association of the families of innocent victims of Loyalist, UDR, RUC and British Army violence" which is also called "Silent too Long". The booklet documents a small sample of the more than 600 sectarian assassinations of Catholics and the murder of 119 innocent people by the Security Forces from 1969 to the present day. We asked Suzanne (whose husband and friend were murdered when loyalist gunmen broke into her house, severely wounding Suzanne herself) to tell us more about the group and the booklet.

How did the group come into existence?

The idea for the group came about in May during the Hunger Strike. Westminster politicians were ranting on about the Hunger Strikers and people like them murdering 2,000 people, implying that all the violence has been one sided. Many relatives of Catholic victims were upset by this idea of 2,000 victims as it was bad enough having their relatives murdered by loyalist paramilitaries and security forces without their deaths being used as a statistic in the propaganda campaign against the hunger strikers. Seamus McAlohan, a Social Worker in the New Lodge was approached on several occasions by relatives of victims so he put an advertisement in the newspaper calling for a meeting of all interested relatives. This was in May. At first the response was slow but word got around as families contacted other ones whom they knew were in the same position. The group started first in Belfast and tried to get one relative from each area of Belfast so that he or she could contact other families they knew in the area.

What was the aim of the group?

The aim of the group was to collect the details of the innocent Catholic victims. A questionnaire was drawn up to be filled in by the relative of the victim, when he or she was murdered, who by, whether anyone was charged with the

murder, what the verdict was, what the sentence was and if compensation was paid.

How did the group go about collecting the information?

In order to get all the details we knew we would need to go round the six counties. The next place we contacted was Derry. We heard that the Widows Mite organisation (the widows of the UDR and RUC men) had refused to accept relatives of the Bloody Sunday victims on the grounds that they couldn't be sure they were innocent. Fourteen unarmed civilians were shot dead by British paratroopers. The coroner's verdict was "sheer, unadulterated murder".

As there was obviously an interest, the group went to Derry where a committee was formed and the questionnaire left. Strabane was contacted and from there County Tyrone and then South Anagh.

What kind of response has the group had?

The group has met with Bishop Daly and Cardinal O Fiaich who supported us 100%. We requested a meeting with James Prior (Sec of State) because we were concerned with the emergence of Paisley's Third Force especially in view of the fact there had been three murders of innocent Catholics within a couple of weeks. A while later Prior's secretary replied saying that he was too busy to see us.

What kind of people are involved in the group and why did you choose the name 'Silent too Long'?

The group is only open to the relatives of innocent victims. We want to stay clear of all political groups because although the British Government has no answer to our case, they will try to lessen the impact of our work by labelling us as republicans. We are not sectarian but we feel it is the deaths of innocent Catholics which need publicising as they have been swept under the carpet. The group is aiming to give support to families by putting them in contact with each other so they are not isolated. Often after the murder, the

bereaved family has been raided by the security forces, and members of the family arrested and taken away for questioning. The murder is never thoroughly investigated. The name was decided upon at the first meeting in August when about 80 people turned up. We discussed what we should call ourselves when a woman stood up and said that what it boiled down to was that we had been silent too long and that publicity should have been given years ago. Everyone agreed that this should be the name of the group.

The booklet 'Silent too Long' was published a couple of weeks ago, why was it produced and who is it aimed at?

When the group was formed we wrote to people all over the world to put forwards the relatives case. So many people wrote back requesting further information that we decided to publish the booklet to send to them. We had originally intended to publish a book documenting all the cases but this would have taken too long so we published this booklet containing a sample of cases. We intend to keep bringing out these booklets at intervals until all the deaths are documented.

The booklet is not an answer to Paisley's book, Ulster: the facts.

In fact it was at the printers three months before but for various reasons was delayed. Demand for the booklet has been so great here that the first issue of 3,000 went in the first week. A reprint of 2,000 is now underway.

I believe that since the booklet was published that members of the group have been harassed by the security forces? Is this the case?

Yes. The morning after the Press Conference was held to launch the book, the group's PR officer Bernard Blake who is 59 was arrested from his house by the British Army at about 7.45 am. He was taken to Girdwood Barracks and questioned solely about the group and the booklet. This was an illegal arrest. Bernard has seen his solicitor and is now taking legal action for false arrest. The homes of the chairperson and press officer are under surveillance by British soldiers and at the last meeting soldiers were outside photographing relatives going into the meeting.

Continued on Page 3

News from the front

Another rape case has been the cause of a storm of protest recently. A Glasgow woman was raped by three youths and slashed with a razor blade needing 168 stitches. Although the woman has tried to commit suicide twice and has threatened suicide on several occasions as a result of her ordeal, she was prepared to go through the trauma of a court case. However, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, decided not to prosecute the case following advice from psychiatrists who said the woman was mentally unfit to stand in the witness box and give evidence. The woman herself was not consulted and the first time she heard of the decision to drop the charges was when she read about it in the newspapers.

A fourth youth who was originally charged with the rape and attempted murder was later named as a crown witness and would have given evidence for the prosecution. In spite of this, Nicholas Fairbairn QC, Solicitor General for Scotland (late), smugly defended the decision to drop the case saying "The overriding factor which decided the matter was the simple, inescapable fact that the prosecution did not have sufficient competent evidence to stand any chance." He was later forced to resign after a public outcry over the handling of the case. The woman has now courageously decided to take the unusual step of applying for a Bill of Letter in order to prosecute her attackers privately.

In view of the controversy over the treatment of rape victims in court, the BBC could hardly have chosen a more volatile point in time to screen 'A complaint of rape', if they had done it deliberately. The programme was one of a police series and showed the actual questioning of a rape victim in the police station. The aggressive, unsympathetic interview tactics used by the detectives in the programme are only too typical as rape victims will testify. The woman was not even allowed to tell the full story of what happened to her. She was constantly interrupted and confused by the detective's hectoring questioning, the purpose of which was not to establish the facts of the incident, but to convince her to drop the complaint. The woman was confused and at one stage broke down and cried. It appeared that because she had made various complaints before, because she had had a nervous breakdown in the past and because it had been her boyfriend who had persuaded her to make a complaint, the detectives felt justified in inferring that she was a prostitute, unreliable and unworthy of sympathetic treatment. Only when one of the detectives informed her that he did not believe that she had been raped did the woman finally give up struggling against police prejudice and agree to drop her complaint.

A new form introduced by the DHSS could make it more difficult for women to obtain abortions in Britain. Four doctors have been reported to the DPP for not filling in the new form which requires the doctor to state the full MEDICAL reasons for performing an abortion. As many abortions are performed on social grounds (as permitted under the 67 Act) it seems the DHSS are attempting to pressurise doctors into ignoring social conditions when deciding whether a woman should be allowed an abortion. Police are investigating two of the doctors reported to the DPP in what is expected to result in a test case.

The Campaign for Media Free Speech in Ireland submitted an application for a programme on the BBC's Open Door programmes and were REFUSED! So much for an open door.



RAPE DISCUSSION

In the next issue of Gaining Ground we are planning to have an interview with some of the women who are involved in the Rape Crisis Centre, which will be opening in March. We print here some of the views and ideas that women have on the Rape Crisis Centre and the question of rape in general.

'Yes. I've heard of the Rape Crisis Centre although I don't know where it is going to be. I think the phone number will be available. I think it is a necessary service but don't understand why it should be secret. I don't know where the money is coming from to finance it. The RCC should help and support the rape victims and campaign to publicise that rape is essentially about violence and not about sexual attraction or frustration.'

"If at all possible it should be operating 24 hours a day. There should be an answering telephone service with a substitute number to ring. I'm very much for the centre, it is most needed (I could have done with it two years ago). For me all that I would need at the centre is a cup of tea and a listener. Plus advice on whether or not to take legal action."

"I'm not happy with prison, courts, etc., but what alternative is there? I don't know if whether changing a prison sentence in any way would act as a deterrent. It could campaign for better protection for women—better to act as an educating body—how to avoid attack and what to do if attacked"

"From what I have heard (and read in Gaining Ground last month) the treatment of women by the law in general is absolutely appalling, but then everyone who comes under the eye of the police are subject to similar treatment—this is not to say though that we should accept it. Personally, in my own experience with the police concerning the issue of sexual attack, I was treated fairly well, the police appeared to be on my side totally, all but one exception, a female cop asked me was I wearing a bra?"

"Definitely a 24 hour a day service. A telephone answering service would very much hinge on the information being immediate. Its important to have personal contact. I think they should raise sentences. Its ridiculous having a fine....give

the woman a couple of quid and she will forget all about it sort of thing. Also, it shouldn't be an offence to carry a perfume spray for instance: to use it for protection. It's not a dangerous weapon"

"The curriculum of sex education in schools for both males and females should be expanded to include the danger of rape and sexual assault and its consequences on the individual—education may be the only answer, the 'law' does little to help anyone....attacked or attacker. The Rape Crisis Centre is a fantastic idea, no doubt it will help many women, and maybe perhaps it could do something for those who feel a tendency to attack women"

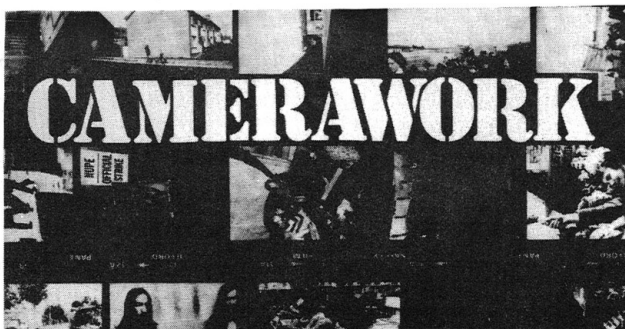
"I think it is a good idea that the people running it keep their anonymity. Its like the centre for battered wives which Erin Pizzey opened up in London. It encourages a feeling of trust. But what about a case where a woman is raped by her husband. Can you stop him getting involved if he wanted to?"

"I don't think it should necessarily be kept secret—how are people going to know where it is? It would need to be widely advertised. I think it is important that the victim's name be kept quiet. I agree with confidentiality but not secrecy. I don't think men should be forbidden from going into the Rape Crisis Centre"

"I think the Rape Crisis Centre should function like a rehabilitation centre—many women get phobias about going outside after they've been raped. A friend of mine who was attacked cannot go outside of her house now and I think somewhere like the Rape Crisis Centre would help women like her to overcome their fears afterwards. It should be a place for recovery with no obligation on you to leave after a short time—even if it means staying there for a few days"

"I think the Rape Crisis Centre should be politically active, especially now when there is such an interest in the Rape laws and a possibility of doing something about them"

"It's a place of meeting other women who have gone through the same ordeal. Also its an advice centre on legal proceedings because you're never told how to go about that and its often very difficult"



REVIEW - it's ignore Irish women time again

Camerawork, the radical photography magazine have just published their latest issue - on Ireland (No.23). This is the second time they have devoted a whole issue to Ireland, and to all intents and purposes it adds nothing to the first one at all.

One area though that they do give shape to is the question of women and their relationship to nationalism and republicanism. There is an article on each topic. Neither add to any understanding of the position of women's lives in Ireland. The article 'Women and Nationalism' was written by the London based Women and Ireland group - I remember reading the collection of papers that it comes from about five years ago, and it contains as many mistakes, misinterpretations, and crude analysis as it did then. I would have thought that considering the Camerawork people actually came to Ireland to do the issue, they might have spent some time talking to women living in Ireland about their lives and their struggles. Turning to the piece 'Women and Republicanism', a more recent piece by

Marie Mulholland - again if you start out with the intention of learning something about women's oppression, and their relationship to republicanism, or to analyse the links, then this won't take you very far. Basically it is a totally uncritical piece, which either ignores, or steamrollers over problematic issues. We are left with the impression that anyone who is a 'real' feminist is in the republican movement, the rest of us are 'sitting on the fence'. All of this is asserted without qualification or any real explanation.

I suppose by this stage I should have gotten used to this treatment of Irish women by the British Left press, but I still get angry. As usual any other aspect of women's lives here is ignored, it becomes invisible, any other struggles - abortion, childcare, rape - trivialised, and made to appear unimportant in the light of more 'important political issues'. One day they just might realise that in previous anti-imperialist struggles, it was those very attitudes that led to women being no better off after the so called 'liberation'.

Overheard....Overheard.....Overheard....

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland have been complaining for sometime about the refusal of many employers to give female staff time off to go on day release courses to obtain more qualifications. They also have launched a project with Gerry the Giraffe as the mascot to root out sexism in education and employment - school children are being encouraged to identify with Gerry, and to write to him/her (its not quite clear which) about any sexism they encounter. Well Gerry was overheard the other evening telling the tale of the young woman who wasn't allowed to go on day release to obtain a higher qualification - the employer you might ask? The Equal Opportunities Commission! Watchout E.O.C. big sister is watching YOU!

.....continued from Front Page

Finally, how do you see the group in the future?

The group aims to create support amongst relatives whose loved ones have been murdered by loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces and enable them to tell the world their side of the story. Also to contradict the British Government's propaganda that over 2,000 people have all been killed by the IRA. We are very concerned that the UDA which is responsible for most of the deaths of innocent catholics is still treated as a legal organisation.

SILENT TOO LONG, the association of the families of innocent victims of loyalist, UDR, RUC and British Army violence. £1.00. Available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

UNITY MEETING

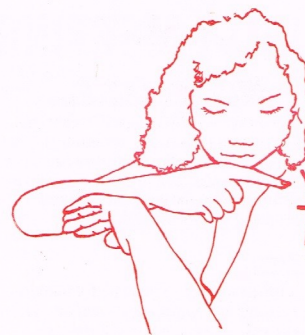
The Unity meeting on Saturday February 6th was attended by over fifty women, the largest meeting so far.

Events for International Women's Day were discussed and it is proposed to have a feminist fayre in the Crescent Centre, Lower Crescent, BT7. This is planned for the Sunday March 7th. The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign is organising a food stall (with home made as well as tinned food), to raise money for the campaign, and all help would be welcome and appreciated. Gaining Ground will be doing a bookstall (in association with Just Books) and have arranged for some crafts to be sold too, so if you want to participate please contact us at C/o 7 Winetavern Street. There will be other stalls and events, details nearer the time. This will be followed in the evening by a concert.

The theme throughout the weekend is violence against women and there will be the annual demonstration in Cornmarket with speakers from the various campaigns. On Monday night a Reclaim the Night march is being organised through the city centre and afterwards there will be a women only disco (venue to be confirmed). All of these events will be widely advertised, fly posted etc, over the next fortnight. If you want to help with the weekend or with part of the weekend telephone Maire on 433663.

There is to be a picket at Armagh prison on Sunday March 7th. Buses will leave Dunville Park. An exhibition - historical to the present day of women's lives will be on at the Felons Club.

...continued from Back Page
throughout, have unlimited choice - they choose to live alone, they choose to live with men or women or children, they have no difficulties at all in forming relationships. It's all as easy and as facile as the cartoon figures. No-where is there any discussion of the difficulties many women have in even finding a partner - no discussion of widowhood, orphans, separation, divorce or death. Celebration is necessary, but not as a totality, and a book devoted to sexuality should be honest enough, or caring enough, to deal with the horrors - not just wrap everything up in a pretty bow and hope that a splash of perfume will take away the sting of real world misery. As well as lacking an unblinkered approach to living, the book lacks a political base and a political analysis of the world in which most women find themselves. Most women I know do not live on (or even visit) idyllic islands, lulled by the fall and rise of surf. They live amongst cars and lorries and supermarkets and dole queues and telephones and television and screaming neighbours and some of them live in fear of their lives in countries at war, some of them have disappeared into hospitals, taken to drink, nearly died of anorexia, been raped on country roads. If you like boxes of chocolate, then buy this book and indulge yourself. I'm going to treat myself to a fresh apple.



has been inserted and definitely try to get the day off! You may have no reaction at all but on the other hand, insertion can be painful—the uterus is being stretched and irritated—particularly if you have not had children and you

Health Page

IUD....The Facts

Although the intra-uterine contraceptive device is not a new method of contraception, having been used and known about for thousands of years, it was not until this century, with the discovery of polythene, a plastic which could be easily sterilised, was non irritant and which regained its shape after stretching, that the method became available to millions of women.

Today, you are likely to be offered three types of coil, the Lippes Loop, the Saf-t-coil for women who have had one or more children or the Copper 7 (Cu-7) for women who have never been pregnant although it is offered to women with children when suitable.

No one knows for sure how the IUD works but it is thought it upsets the balance in the womb by giving you a low grade infection and stopping the implantation of the egg. It is important that you are fitted with a coil by a *trained person* and as most GPs are not trained or do not have adequate clinic experience practice in fitting the device it is best to check first as the complication rate and the chances of it being effective are greatly influenced by proper fitting. You could also go straight to your Family Planning Clinic or ask your doctor for a fitting with a hospital like the Samaritans on the Lisburn Road, for instance.

Usually the coil is fitted during a period, firstly because you are definitely not pregnant so no complications would ensue from a septic miscarriage and secondly because insertion will be easier; the entrance to the uterus being a little bigger during menstruation.

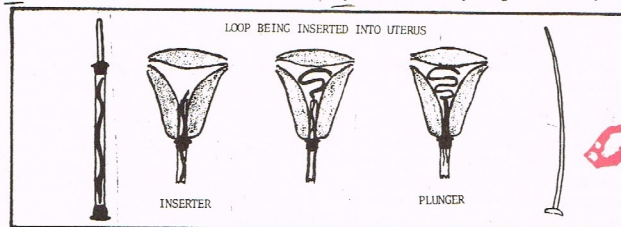
You should really be allowed to rest for at least fifteen minutes after the coil

may feel a bit faint afterwards. It is possible though not all that usual, to suffer from shock and to have a drop in blood pressure—this is why it is important to have medical back up.

It is estimated that in one out of ten women the uterus will expel the IUD and heavy bleeding and pain make it an unsatisfactory method for one in five women, approximate pregnancy rates for the Lippes Loop and Saf-t-coil are 3%. The Copper devices have a lower rate but they have not been tested enough to be more accurate. Rates for pregnancy are lower among women over 30 or who have had children. If you do become pregnant, there is between a 25% and 50% of a chance that you will have a miscarriage when the IUD is removed. If you do not it is unlikely that there will be anything wrong with the foetus.

Both antibiotics like penicillin, tetracycline and aspirin may lower the effectiveness of the coil so you should avoid taking aspirin as a pain killer and use extra birth control (condoms, foam) when on a prescription for antibiotics. There are complications and side effects associated with the coil, more so than the pill, which causes more deaths. On rare occasions, if it is inserted wrongly there is a possibility the uterus will be perforated and the coil may slip through, outside of the womb and cause dangerous inflammation. You might suffer from some backache and cramps after insertion and if it persists you should go to your doctor and have it taken out. Any irregular bleeding, irritation or a smelly discharge (indicating infection)...have it removed immediately. Infection spread spreads and may jeopardise your chances of child bearing.

It is very important to check that you can feel the strings in the vagina to see if the device is still in place. After insertion check before intercourse for the first three months, after that check after every period. If you feel plastic then it is definitely coming out and if you can't feel anything at all, it may



have slipped out or may have worked its way further up into the womb. It is important to go to the doctor if you suspect anything immediately. The Copper devices should be removed every three years. It is usual in Northern Ireland for the plastic ones to be removed after five years, but if you are happy with it, there appears to be no reason why it should not be left in longer.

Book Review

FOR OURSELVES

- our bodies and sexuality from women's point of view.

Sheba Feminist Publishers, £4.50

This is a pretty book. A very pretty book. It is full of pretty photographs and pretty drawings. The cover itself is made to look like a chocolate box, wrapped in a pretty ribbon. And I found the book about as satisfying as a box of chocolates - after I had ploughed through page after page of beaming women and silly drawings - I felt like I needed a good purge to restore a sense of normality.

There are 14 pages devoted to a particularly boring interview about sex in a section on "Women and Women" of 29 pages and only 8 pages devoted to the entire subject of rape. The introduction claims that the book could "easily have turned out 5 times as long". It could well have been edited down 5 times, to allow room for items of importance and relevance for most women.

For this book is not written for, or about *most women*. and it really is not good enough for the originators of it to say that it was written for themselves, when it is published on a major scale and offered to a wider public for consumption. Admitting shortcomings is no way out of the glaring lack of thought or research, and is an insult to potential readers.

The book is entirely about the sexuality of a certain privileged group of women - privileged enough to be able to take time out on an island in the company of themselves. When did the woman on the thirty-fourth floor of a block of flats in Birmingham last get that kind of opportunity? There are sections on health, self-love, orgasm, sexual fantasies, relationships with men, therapy, contraception and so forth. Some of the practical advice and information is very good and certainly useful, but there is not enough of it, over a wide enough range of subjects. There are too many pages of celebratory musings about the wonders of self-made orgasm, and, what seems to be the miracle cure of the moment for isolation - self-love!

The section on "Living Alone" was possibly the most disturbing part of this book for me, because, unlike the suggestion in the title, it does not deal with the problem of loneliness or isolation. In fact, nowhere could I find these subjects mentioned intelligently. It seems that the cavorting cartoon figures and real women referred to

continued inside

outta control

HEALTH HAZARD SUPP

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

ISSUE TWENTY FIVE
MARCH 1982

Sold with **GAINING GROUND**

Ireland 10p Outside Ireland 20p

The Employer of Unemployed People....D.H.S.S

(Direct quotes in Italics)

A DHSS internal memo, leaked to Outta Control, discusses why the *department* had decided to tax those people claiming benefit, whether that is Unemployment Benefit or Supplementary Benefit, from JULY of this year.

The memo tries to explain that taxing benefits is not a new phenomenon and had been thought about since PAYE was introduced, and that both the Tories and Labour are *interested in the idea*.

There are four main reasons given why benefits should be taxed. Firstly, consistency, since pensioners and widows are being taxed on some of their benefits, i.e. retirement pension, widows' pension, and widowed mother's allowance, then it is consistent to tax all benefits.

Secondly, it is consistent/fair to tax everyone all year rather than some all year (employed) and some for part of the year or not at all (unemployed).

The third reason is *Revenue - it is estimated that from July 82 a full year equivalent of £400,000,000 will be raised. So clearly the amounts of money at stake are considerable*.

In the short-term, the total annual benefits received by a claimant will probably not be equal to or above the income tax threshold. But, if benefits are index-linked again (as is proposed) they will quite quickly rise with inflation, and total income will exceed the tax threshold and income will be reduced in real terms. As rent allowances increase this year to accommodate the 20% rent increases allowed to the Housing Executive and private landlords, total receipts by individuals claiming will increase, which will see many into the first tax bracket, and thus real income will fall.

The fourth reason given: *Work Incentive. No Tax refunds will be paid whilst Unemployment Benefit is claimed, irrespective of whether or not any benefit, Unemployment Benefit or Supplementary Benefit is actually paid. Of course tax refunds will be made when benefit stops being claimed, usually on return to work.*

Finally, a small reference in the memo to how the *department* sees unemployed people.The Social Security Department will set up tax records for all claimants from the Form P45 in effect the Social Security Department will become the employer of unemployed people as long as they are claiming Unemployment Benefit.

DOLE TO DISEASE AT DUNMURRY

As John Z. de Lorean returns to the U.S. a little richer, a lot of his ex-employees will return to the dole a little less healthy. Ten months ago, the Body Press Shop of the D.M.C. was paid a visit by the Factory Inspectorate, who have as yet not released their report.

Many of the workers are being exposed to the health hazard of the dusts and fibres from the cutting and trimming of fibre glass used in the body work of the cars. Rashes on the lower arms and ankles are common, so are nose- and ear-bleedings. A few people have had to be removed from the area, since they contracted dermatitis.

Another effect, which will take years to detect, will be the lung-scarring, caused by the minute needle-like fibres.

One worker, who had been off ill with a bad chest, collapsed within hours of returning to work in the Body Press Shop. Set against this, is the companies record of health and safety, where they have even removed the guards from the cutting tools, to speed up Production.



THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Now things have cooled down after the hunger strike, throughout Belfast scores of wall murals and political slogans are systematically vandalised by the Brits and RUC. The City Council under the pretence of cleaning up Belfast by removing 'the sectarian slogans' hope they can rewrite history by removing all trace of peoples resistance or that people accept the RUC and Brits into their areas.

After Michael McCartan was murdered by the RUC for painting wall slogans, local people enraged by his death covered walls stating 'The RUC are murderers' However counter-revolutionaries may well try to whitewash over the RUC's crimes but as the repainted words state "The RUC are still bastards"

NO MATTER WHO YOU VOTE FOR THE GOVT GETS IN!

The Election has come and gone and as far as I can see not a lot has changed. We have another hung Dail within which deals will be done so that either Haughey or Fitzgerald can have the power they lust for so much. We may have a new T-Shock as a result of these deals, but for people in general, not much will change.

The Election itself was caused when the so-called Socialists Kenny and Sherlock (SFWP) decided they could not stomach any more of the monetaristic shit of the Coalition. VAT on clothes and footwear was too much for even this pair of opportunists.

This Election was, supposedly, about economic issues. We were told that for the first time in an election the economic argument was central, and it was about who could deal most effectively with the "crisis". What a lie!! The two main capitalist parties are basically agreed about how the crisis will be paid for. Extract as much money as possible from the working class. The debate was about who could screw the workers most and get away with it. The parties agreed that there was not much of a difference between their fundamentals. FF threw in a few extra taxes for the rich to get the working class vote.

A central argument through the campaign was that we were living beyond our means and that there was a need for us all to tighten our belts. I would like to know how someone getting £20 on the dole could live beyond his/her means. At the same time Paddy Gallagher, that well-known capitalist and buddy of Charlie, can afford to pay £1200 for a salmon (twelve hundred quid for a fish) at a FF fund-raising do. I was

He has so much means that it's probably not possible for him to live beyond them.

One of the notable things about this election was the number of alternative/left-wing candidates. They ranged from a feminist, through the unemployed and over to various shades of anti-imperialists.

These people argued that the election could be used to highlight issues and give people a chance to register a protest, which may be true, *But it did not end there*.

Most candidates were going on about what they would do for everybody when they were elected. None of them stood as
Continued on Back Page.....



Continued from last Issue: (1)

Q. The Carpenter Club is a recent feature of Belfast, and it's the only gay club. Do you ever go there?

A. Well, The Northern Ireland Gay Rights Group say that it doesn't alienate nationalist gays, but we found out different the other night. Me and a few friends from Dublin went along. We were giving out "Gays Against Imperialism" leaflets, and I was wearing badges - 'How can we demand rights from a government we don't recognise' and 'How can gays be liberated when Ireland isn't free.' And they said 'Take off those badges or you're not coming in.' They tried to palm it off by saying we don't want politics in a gay centre, and we tried to argue that being gay is political, and NIGRA itself is political, and why should you censor one type of politics because you don't agree with it. We tried to argue on their terms, not to win them over, but that we had a right to express our views. But it didn't work, and we had to leave.

We had already been in, and were going for a carry-out when they told us to take off the badges. And while I argued, the others gave out the leaflets. They said that the badges would cause fights, but our argument was that it wasn't us who were looking for fights, and if there was going to be a fight then it would be someone picking on us, because of our views, which has direct relevance to gays. That's how we think, that we can't achieve gay liberation without socialism. If someone started on us it would be their fault, not ours. But they kept saying we don't want trouble. We're all gays together, and we're a wee apolitical haven down here, and don't want politics brought in. But that's totally unrealistic, that's pretending there is no divide in Northern Ireland, and no national question.

At first they were dead moderate, saying they don't want trouble between Catholics and Protestants, but when we pressed them further and said do you really think the cause of the troubles is a religious one, we got down to it that what they wanted was partition, and they admitted that. One of them started back-tracking when we threatened to write to NIGRA and IGRM, saying that their organisers wanted partition, and finally told us to get out cause they couldn't wear it at all.

Q. Are there any other social venues where gay people can go without intimidation?

A. There are, but they're very middle and upper class. I remember when I phoned Cara Friend (Gay counselling service), when I was 15 or 16, and all they said was 'Just come out.' I tried to explain that I was from a working class Catholic background, my ma and da were devout Catholics and there was 11 kids in the family, and couldn't just come out, I wasn't ready.

But he said don't be silly. But they live on the Lisburn Road, or wherever, with one or two children, and found it dead easy to come out.

Q. Did they offer you accommodation?

A. Oh, no. That time the impression they gave me was we're only demanding gay rights to bring us into line with the mainland. We're being denied our rights as British citizens. And that's why I never really kept up contact or got involved.

At places like the Carpenter or the Midland Hotel, all they gay people who go, it's not that there are more homosexually-inclined people in the middle classes, it's more that the pressures are greater against working class people coming out. And all those people who do go to the Carpenter or wherever, if they're walking through town, they wouldn't make a point of showing their gayness, they'd just sort of hide it, and pass off as straights to avoid any trouble. They would just stick to their wee gay ghettos and wouldn't see it important to confront the wider community with it. So they don't have that much hassle.

Q. How is it where you live now? You've moved to the Falls Road, haven't you?

A. Well, I've been there since the New Year. There's a lot of hassle, with people shouting things, but there's been no violence. It is a cultural shock for most people apart from anything else. It's not that the kids are being malicious, it's just that they've never seen anything like it before and can't cope with it.

There was one kid who stopped us on Royal Avenue today and said 'Are you fruits?'. We said, 'What do you mean, fruits?'. She said, 'Oh, are yous, ah, homosexual?'. We says 'Aye'. She says, 'you shouldn't walk about like that, people will laugh at you.' She wasn't laughing, she was just concerned about us, but we said, 'Don't worry about it, love.' Some people are malicious, but they get away with it if you're surprised. It's important they do realise there are gay people about. There are a lot of kids about who are homosexually attracted, but would never come out, because they think we're the only ones in the world. When I was at school the teachers used to make jokes against gays. They were fascist. I went to St. Malachys and there was no way I could have come out there. Now I wish I had've. It would have been just too much. You would have the whole heap against you - the priests, the teachers, and the kids.

Q. How do you think things will go now?

A. I'm really pissed off, and thinking of moving out, it's not worth the hassle. All the gay friends I knew from Turf Lodge & Derry have fucked off to London. The problem with Dublin, where there's more gays who've come out, is that they still stick to their ghettos, and there's a lot of queer-bashing because of the influence of the Catholic Church, the gardai as well as very heavy against gays.

Q. Do you get much hassle from the RUC, UDR or Brits here?

A. The RUC wouldn't bother lifting you if you were just linking arms. They could if they wanted to, or felt vindictive enough. The UDR hassle you, but they hassle everybody, all the time. And the Brits, they always make sexist remarks, like when they frisk you they say 'You better not be enjoying this.' But you just slobber back at them, and say things like, 'Don't flatter yourself, you ugly bastard.' That cuts them down.



NO TO STARTBAHN WEST FRANKFURT

Since the mid-sixties the German government had plans of building a new extension to the Frankfurt airport, a new runway. Until Spring 1980 a lot of anger was expressed by people who were living in that area by writing petitions, collecting signatures, information and open peaceful demonstrations. The first more active resistance started at the 3rd of May 1980, where people started to build a whole village of huts on the actual site, determined not to move. Since then there have been quite a lot of demonstrations, some of them ending up with heavy clashes with the police.

WHY RESISTANCE?

The building of Startbahn/West will result in the destruction of the environment, and green parties (or FOE type people) oppose for that reason only. The cutting of about 250ha of the forest will cause immense damage. There will be additional noise problems and pollution (the region has already the most highly poisoned air in Germany). Another important reason for resistance is that the Startbahn/west will be built for military use by US Air Force; they are the ones who are pushing and insisting on the building of it. The Startbahn/West will be a military and strategically necessary for the American and German state. The Americans will use it as their base to get to the Middle-East. For example, the thickness of the tarmac has to reach the military standards of the US regulations of carrying heavy military transport machines. There is no doubt about it that the US will use it for their military aims and they have been in the past on a smaller scale.

Because the Startbahn/West is so strategically important to the USA, to the German state, it just will not give in on petitions or Volksentscheide, but will use its full power to smash any opposition.

As long as people realise this, they might have a chance to find new ways of resisting Startbahn/West, resisting the State.

exchange of experiences; the political movement as it developed during and after the Hunger Strike of the political prisoners in Stammheim. Since March 8th/9th '82 Derry on 11th/12th Dublin 15th For further information phone 25426

Relatives of the political prisoners in W. Germany are coming over here to express their solidarity with the Irish struggle for liberation. They want to inform and discuss: the struggle of the political prisoners in W. Germany against their conditions of isolation within the High Security Wings, the work of the relatives action committee and an exch

18. A.C. % 7 WINETOWN & BELFAST

Bringing up Children

THE S.A.S. WAY



"And it's ALL done in the WORST possible taste....."

Despite an assurance from the (male) manager that this obnoxious card would be removed from public sale, the shop called "Etc" in Howard Street, Belfast, continue to display on their shelves this revolting item, "Bringing up Children the SAS/Way"

It is disgusting that a commercial concern seems content to make money from sales of this card, particularly in the centre of a city that has suffered many times from the practices of this murderous Regiment. 'Teddy' appears to have had the left ear blown away by the hand gun shown on the right; the heavy baton appears ready to finish the work; a list of child-care 'techniques' on the reverse includes such typically mindless examples as 'Rubber Sheets or Rubber Bullits' (sic) (a weapon which killed Francis Rowntree, aged 11½, Tobias Molley, aged 8 and Thomas Friel aged 21) and 'Where To Hit Them so it Doesn't Show' - in a country where at least 149 cases of torture and brutality by the 'security forces' were brought to public notice in 1979.

We leave it to the imaginations of our readers to devise ways to ensure that this particularly foul piece of commercialism is removed from public sale once and for all,

UB 40

On Saturday and Sunday 20/21 Feb, the reggae band UB40 was playing in Belfast. They were backed up by a Jazz/Rock group called "Apartment". Both groups did an equally good performance and I felt it was a pity that the local band "Apartment" wasn't given too much attention to people stood and talked, not many people listened to them. But as soon as UB40 came on, the crowd went virtually hysterical, the lead singer hadn't even opened his mouth. The audience treated them as the 'stars', and they, of course, loved it, and the lead singer kept on touching the crowd at the front.

UB40's music, their beat and the whole atmosphere they created was quite amazing and very enjoyable, nearly everybody danced. But was it worth it, the £4 at the door, and why didn't they advertise that people on the dole get in with UB40 cards for £2.50.

ROUGH JUSTICE

The Lord Chief Justice was supposed to be giving a secret lecture at the Queens University Staff Common Room..... (the same building that inspired the 10 year run of the infamous James Mc Cann) ...but someone had a go at him from a nearby house. As the shots rang out, he dashed into the lobby, and asked the first wee woman he met, who they were shooting at. "The man who came in that big car" she replied, pointing to Lowry's own Rover. Undeterred, this brave man went on to give his talk on "THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES CONCERNING THE STATE OF MIND OF THE MURDERER."

AT LEISURE

Councillor Billy Dickson's success in delaying the building of a Leisure Centre in the Lower Ormeau area slightly backfired on him when the building of another centre at Ballymacarret was delayed too, since both centres were discussed on the same motion.

The objection was on the grounds that not many Protestants will venture into Lower Ormeau 'which would be used by people with strong Republican views'.

Needless to say not too many Catholics will be using a centre in Ballymacarret which would be used by people with strong loyalist views....and to think these sectarian bigots once controlled housing in Belfast.

TOO LATE TO TALK TO BILLY'

BBC TV.

I enjoyed watching this play. It had no pretensions of being a sociological or political tract, and yet much of its impact was credible. Set in the Donegall Road area of Belfast, it told the story of one family caught up in a pattern of tyrannical drunken father, dying mother, and four children, of whom the son, Billy, was the eldest. Fearful of what was happening inside and outside the home, the family lived at tangents to each other, with the best (if limited communication existing between the three sisters.

It has been said that a drunken father is only laughable when he's not your own, and the children in this play lived with a bewildering mixture of fear, hatred and love towards the sad and lost figure of their father (portrayed in a powerful and real way by James Ellis). Perhaps the greatest criticism that could be levelled at this piece of drama is that the UDA characters were shown in a comic and trivial manner, which belies the true death-dealing aspects of this organisation. Billy's remark, "all the able-bodied men are in hiding and the rest's out there in uniforms" fell very short of honest commentary. It is also highly unlikely that his friend would have remained free from damage following his attack on a UDA officer - the play gave the false impression that all one has to do is to 'stand up to' these characters and one will come out on top - which, in reality, is highly improbable.

The play contained other flaws, but the general atmosphere of family life at that period, and with a particular setting in a clearly identifiable area of the city, was well portrayed and satisfying in dramatic terms. Unlike many similar offerings, it did not capitalise on 'the troubles' in this country with ponderous political pretensions - and this fact, I think, was perhaps its greatest asset.

RIGHT AT LAST

Commenting on the 80 rail guards in South-East England, who have formed a Committee to protest against the NUR acceptance of more working hours and to remove the General Secretary Sid Weighell, Tory MP Neil Thorne said:-

"I think it is disgraceful that they should be attacking their own union leader. They are very fortunate to have the leader they have got. This merely shows that anarchy can prevail."

A.I.D.

ALTERNATIVE IRISH DIRECTORY

c/o 211 Sutton Park, DUBLIN, 13.

The people who publish this are putting together their Second Directory of alternatives. Send everything (sic) to address above.

JUST BOOKS are also compiling a directory "of the other side"....more localised, it will concentrate mainly on Belfast, and deal with ANYTHING which could be construed as anti-authoritarian. SEND whatever you want to: JUST BOOKS, Directory of the Other Side, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast, 1.

THE CENTRE OF NEWRY was covered with a series of posters, fly-posted by the striking Norbrook workers. They read - "Wanted : For Norbrook : No Reward - BLACKLEGS."

Beside the posters there was also a list of the names of the 25 blacklegs employed by Haughey in breaking the strike.

NOVENA RECOMMENDED BY SAINT JOHN BOSCO

1. By reciting (a) Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father, three times together with the ejaculation: blessed and praised every moment be the Most Holy and Divine sacrament (b) the Hail Holy Queen, three times, with the ejaculation: Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Listen, lads, I know what I'm talking about.



continued from front page.
abstentionist candidates. The anti-imperialists (especially PD) argued that there was a need to present people with an alternative to Haughey and Fitzer. Seems contradictory when we see Berni could shake Charlie's hand and offer him support in the Dail if she was elected.

As an *anarchist* I rejected the arguments for putting people up and thus did not support any of the 'alternative' candidates. They all offered to change things for people once they got into the Dail. That is exactly the same thing that Haughey etc offer. Real change will only come about *when people take up the struggle and change things for themselves*. There is nothing great in exchanging one set of leaders for another. I would suggest to PD, and others,

that there is an alternative to Haughey and Fitzgerald (and O'Leary, MacHolla etc) & that is to REJECT THEM ALL'

I feel that their position on elections is influenced by their over-all idea of how change can come about. They believe that all that is necessary is a political revolution during which the vanguard party can seize the state apparatus. After this dictatorship of the proletariat has been established all other change can then follow. In effect, it means that the Party gives the revolution to the people rather than the people taking it themselves. It also means that the old state is merely replaced by the so-called workers' state. People are still dominated and controlled; but, supposedly, in their own interest.

While the election has not changed much

- one thing that must be noted is the fact that the Stickies have increased their vote and their number of seats. In effect, they now hold the 'balance of power'. I believe that this is a sign that some people have rejected the three major Parties and are looking for some kind of alternative. The stickies at the moment appear as the most viable alternative. We all know that, fundamentally, the Stickies can offer us nothing much better than FF or FG. The illusion that they can create socialism must be shattered NOW. Otherwise, people could spend the next few years putting their faith in a Party who can offer us nothing but a lot of bureaucracy and repression, as the people of the Eastern Bloc have discovered.

1932-82

In 1932, there was not even 90,000 out of work, but there was no dole, this is true, there was the outdoor relief which provided the only form of welfare system at this time; but people got by one the outdoor relief and were still dissatisfied. They protested at the system of outdoor relief and demanded basic changes in the form of welfare benefits, and they forced the Belfast city corporation (who were responsible) to give them money instead of relief in kind. That was in 1932.

Things have changed so vastly in the intervening 50 years that we should not be speaking here about the comparison between conditions of life then, with now. We are entitled to a hell of a lot more than what was ever given to our ancestors of 1932. The standards should always rise, and never fall, or, we are not discussing progress AND a better life. We are comparing how much better off we are in comparison to people who no longer exist, in a time that is gone, and why? What we *should* be comparing the standards to, are the high standards of living for the people who live in the nice houses and who drive the big cars, we must

demand our rights, which are: a standard of living in tune with the expectations of a person who is entitled to a comfortable luxurious life-style, and not the poverty of life in 1932, or, for that matter, 1982.

We cannot any longer speak in terms of how much 'better off' we were, or are, but how much better off *should we be*. *This is the real struggle of the people of Poland and the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe or Columbia - they struggle, and rightly so, for a better condition of life. We must stop fighting ridiculous, irrelevant causes such as the trade union's laughable "right to work" campaign; we must struggle and demand a higher standard of life NOW; the immediate changes to be made in our present, and not in some future day.*

"All we ask is justice" is a pleasant enough way to beg, but we have no place begging! We are human beings living in the latter half of the 20th century, we do not wish to live as the people of the 19th century, on the crumbs from some donation given by a charity. Our struggle has to be for the further enrichment of life for ALL of us, and not for the maintenance of how things are. That is the difference between the labour movement of today, and those of 1932, for example. The fought for what were, then, pro-

gressive demands, and we have no right to give up progress for the sake of a small percentage of the population who are content with the way it is, unless of course we are content to live in poverty-stricken destitution. There has to be a forward thinking, or we just will not go forward, so we do not ask for the real standard of living to stay the same - it is never enough - we demand a real change in the standard of life, one demand, that is not even a lot to ask for. Given that the only ways to change is to change the structure of society, it is a task for us all to put forward a reasonable method of changing society. We are forced, once again, to protest for a demand to a 'higher authority', and one of our ways forward is to do away with this 'higher authority'. We must now set about organising in our daily lives, and on the streets, for the pursuit of our goal.

There are many ways to do something, and one of the most important of all is for us to ask all involved people to come together and seek out a new reorganisation of the socially-concerned.

In 1932, such action scared the shit out of the establishment; the idea of it frightens it out of them now.

Long Kesh Anarchist.

Stuttgart, Tuesday

Dear All

Well, I've been here for 10 days now. I had expected to suffer from culture shock, but instead I've discovered a SHOCKING CULTURE! A land of strange obsessions, the main one being LAW + ORDER.

I'm not exactly overjoyed with this place. I didn't expect to be, but none the less it is an interesting experience. No community or community spirit in evidence, people being obsessed with their own desires to be model citizens, their cars and cleaning the pavement outside their 'wonderful' houses. About 600 000 people live in the Stuttgart area, but yet it has the visual appearance and feel of a large city - big buildings, monuments to Mercedes Benz, over sized roads and the S-Bahn. The S-Bahn is something similar to the tube in London. The whole of the Greater Stuttgart region is linked by this thing, including the small towns surrounding, which is a pity - perhaps these small towns might have maintained an identity of their own, had they not been so inextricably linked to the urban sprawl. Last night was like Christmas Eve. Once

every 3 months the locals leave large items of so called 'rubbish' out. Honestly, you could furnish lavishly about 10 houses if you were to be systematic in collecting the goodies, chairs, tables, skis, carpets, clothes, WC's etc etc.... I arrived home with a pair of boots, an armchair, a magazine holder & 2 flower pots.

The main political preoccupation at the moment is the opposition to the construction of a new airfield near Frankfurt - the 'Startbahn West'. It is very close to a US Military base, meaning a military use for the airfield, the fact that it automatically will become a military target. The area on which they're building is forest, although all this is being cleared out for the runway. Police tactics have become more brutal towards the demonstrators,

and the politics of Violence/Non Violence are being reassessed. I went to a meeting about it at a Jugendhaus last Saturday. The meeting was quite boring, but the way in which they churn out protest products is amazing - Startbahn West board games, very professional production but a very crass concept, Startbahn West records etc.

The Jugendhauses are like youth-clubs,

although some are autonomous and run by a committee of 'politically minded people'. Financed by the local councils, they can afford Video outfits, disco equipment, sound systems etc.... everything laid out, although finances are being hit by the recession + ensuing cuts. The 'Nerve Centre' of the youth section of the FDP (german liberal party) is very professional indeed, computers, printing, faxing, machines and well stocked with materials, but I'm not happy about the Jungdemokraten at all! It seems very formal, whilst seeming radical. Seemingly endless resources at their disposal - all mod cons - and yet they are in a vacuum. No existing community structures to relate to. Most people are happy with what the system grants them. An enormous generation gap, older people looking at you as if to say "What you need is a few years under a good strong Fuehrer." The 'alternative' Krauts (sic.) look on this country as a mode of convenience, a good place to make money and travel - no prospect of change in the BRD.

They say and see themselves as being great "Internationalists"... champions of peace in the 3rd World, and other oppressed nations.... rather arrogant, I feel, not a place I could live in....

gaining ground

**Sold with
Outta Control**

The right to vote or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls nor in the courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE OPENING INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

INTERVIEW WITH GAINING GROUND

Why a Rape Crisis Centre?

There are no services or doctors offering specific rape help, there's very little sex education in schools and the subject is virtually taboo. It is also very difficult for women to report to the police especially in certain Catholic areas where there is a traditional suspicion of the police. There is also paramilitary summary justice in some communities like in the recent UDA case.

It would appear that in the groups we talked to — youth groups, community groups, family groups that women are willing to talk at the smallest opportunity and we were surprised at the numbers who had been sexually attacked. These women had never spoken to anyone else, some had never come to terms with their experience, they hadn't spoken to their mothers or sisters, because they would say, you must have asked for it or what were you wearing and so on. There are a lot of myths and feelings of guilt around. Now they find it difficult to speak about any kind of sexual matter with their own children, the ignorance is being perpetuated.

Will you be a campaigning body?

As a charity we can't campaign for reforms but we would certainly support other groups and we are affiliated to the English group Women against Violence against Women who have just produced a very good book on rape in marriage —the Rapist who pays the Rent —people sometimes forget about married women who are raped or cohabitantes or a woman living in a house where there is another man living there too. These women think there is no point taking it to court, they feel they could never prove it. We support all Women against Violence against Women's proposed reforms to the law, for instance that women should have the legal right to be examined by a woman police doctor and to be interviewed by a policewoman.

How have you found the police?

We have found them to be sympathetic. It's a good way for them to improve community relations. They have said that it will be included in their policy for a woman to be interviewed by a policewoman and even if she is in a rural area, they will bring one in. We are optimistic that the centre as well as offering comfort and support and legal and medical advice will also be acting as a watchdog, monitoring and scrutinising the courts and the police and we will publicise cases that have been badly managed. It will hopefully make the courts adhere to the recent laws which they have not been doing. We want to bring the subject of rape out into the open and shatter the myths.

Tell us about the counselling service and how you see it working.

We won't be judgemental. We are a counselling service and we'll let women talk out their problems. We have been training for just over a year using information and training manuals from other rape crisis groups and we did a lot of role play and consciousness raising. We got a lot of practical help from lawyers, social workers, doctors, police and other interested women.

What we are hoping to do is to get another group started to fill out the rota and when they get started they will train other groups and it will be an ongoing situation.

The support we give will depend on each individual woman. We realise that most women will just want to talk about their experiences and it may have been bottled up inside them for years and years. It's important that we make sure the experience doesn't destroy women or make them feel ashamed. You have to show that it's not their fault and they didn't ask for it. Rape is a violent crime not a crime of passion. For some women it will give them a sense of outrage and strength at what's happened to them and help them to regain control of their own lives. However the support that we give will be determined by what the woman wants herself.

What is the position about legal aid?

You see, a woman doesn't need a solicitor because she is acting as a state witness and the DPP takes the case. The only way a woman can get any help is if she pays for it herself by employing a barrister to keep an eye on the case. The idea is that if the rape is proven she can then take the case to the criminal injuries court which, unfortunately, is open to the public and the woman may not want to relive another experience in court, another trial in effect. The barrister must keep a low profile to prevent it looking like the woman was only after the money. Most women would tend to settle out of court for a lesser amount rather than go through with it. Compensation is on a level equivalent with a broken limb which can be mended, it bears no relation to

cont. page 2



International Womens Day PICKET ON ARMAGH

AS many people gather outside Armagh prison on International Womens Day, to show their solidarity with women inside, and in a symbolic gesture to emphasise the need for continuing solidarity within the womens' movement generally, they will undoubtedly underline the fact that over 20 women in Armagh remain on the no-work protest. Whilst these prisoners remain on protest (in continuing resistance to the British policy of criminalisation) they lose remission, the number of visits they can receive is reduced, and their weekly parcels are also affected. We should all be aware that a yearly symbolic picket should be only a part of the work of women

terms with hardship after hardship, few have been left unscathed by British oppression, and while we continue to play our part in the struggle, we should also look to ourselves as women and determine what we wish to obtain for ourselves....."

"As seen in the past, Irish women did not successfully tackle women's issues in the aftermath of the 1916 rising, and we should learn from those mistakes...."

women could not handle both issues together; that of national liberation and that of women's rights."

".....we should not allow one issue to cloud the other, but instead we should



en outside to continue to support the prisoners and to campaign for humane conditions. This work has to be constant, if the struggle of the Armagh prisoners is not to be seen as secondary to that of their male comrades, and if Armagh gaol is to receive constant, rather than once-a-year attention from the womens' movement.

The prisoners in Armagh, in a statement issued on International Womens Day, extended greetings throughout the world, "especially to those who, like ourselves, are engaged in the struggle for freedom, in El Salvador, Palestine, the Basque country and the many others who have pledged their support to us."

"With the war situation in our country, political and social issues are an ever-present reality of day-to-day life. Our knowledge and awareness have grown as each crisis falls upon us. And as women come to

combine the two in our pursuit of freedom.....We must remain beside our male comrades, not only in planning our country's future, but also in establishing equal rights for ourselves. Today, we should avail of every opportunity present to come together to discuss and explore what we want to see in the Ireland of tomorrow."

"We cannot allow the same situation to evolve as in the past, when women played a comparatively strong role in the Rising and civil war, but afterwards disappeared into oblivion, gaining little or nothing for women's rights."

"We must not halt at the halfway house, but follow it through until we have asserted all our aims."

PRO, Protestng POWs, Armagh Gaol.
International Women's Day 1982.

cont.page 1

the compensation that men get when they are injured sexually.

What about advertising for the centre?

We are advertising the phone number. We are not advertising the address for safety reasons — if a raped woman is going in she might not want people to know she is going into the centre. We have got a lot of leaflets printed, posters, press statements and we will be on radio programmes. I imagine it won't be long before it is known as it is the sort of thing people will talk about. We have made a big banner for the Reclaim the

Night March on Monday, it is blue and yellow, which are the colours of the centre.

We will publicise the newspaper coverage of rape, for example, there was the recent case of a woman who would easily be recognised from the town and the street that were printed — there were only 4 houses in the street anyway. We will also publicise the innuendo and implication in the courts about, for example, the women's past or present sexual life. It is nobody's business but hers.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



RALLY AND DEMONSTRATION AT CORNMARKE

Saturday 6th March

1.00pm Women against Violence against women.

CONCERT

Crescent Centre, Lower Crescent
Belfast 7

Commere - Kate Kelly

ARTISTES: Geraldine and Bernadette Bradley, Mary Wall, Dagmar Seig, Maire Andrews, Miriam Titterton, Anne Holmes, Francoise Seite, Catherine Bree and Barbara McGlynn.

Sue Triesman - one act play

Carlene Montouse and Olive Rodgers readings from work of women in Liverpool 8 Writers Workshop.

Admission £2 waged 75p unwaged

BAR

Sunday 7th March

Picket at Armagh - buses leave Dunville Park at 12.30

Womens Festival at the Crescent Centre from 1pm to 6pm

Information stalls, bookstalls, cafe, childrens games and activities and creche

DISCUSSIONS:

1.00pm to 2.30 pm

Childcare Forum

Speakers: Liz McShane, Eileen Evason and Margaret Morrow

2.30pm to 3.30pm

Irish Suffragettes

Margaret Ward

3.30pm to 4.30pm

Women Artists

illustrated talk by Eileen Black

4.30pm to 6.00pm

Women Writers Workshop

Women from Liverpool 8 Writers Workshop.

How will the Rape Crisis Centre operate?

There is a 24 hour answering service and the centre will be open two evenings a week. Someone will go in every day to check the answering machine. We know that an answering machine may put people off but until we get more people trained we can't be there every day. We would hope to extend the service particularly over the weekend and to have another telephone number to ring. All we can say is that it is going to be better than this time last year and we will go on from there.

HOUSING: a right not a privilege

FROM 10 o'clock at night until 8.30 in the morning of February 19/20th, a large crowd of people occupied space outside the City Hall in Belfast, in a protest at the recently-announced exhorbitant rent and rates increases.

Equipped with cars, vans, and a large tent for sleeping (not that many got much sleep - the crack was too good !), people both young and old gathered to show the Housing Executive exactly what they thought of the plans to screw even more money out of rapidly-emptying pockets.

Rent increases originally announced at 30% caused immense anger and disbelief. A statement came later to say that they would, in fact, be "only" 22% - would the Housing Executive be happy about increasing the wages of their workers by "only" 22% ? The answer is, of course, no. Wages are due to increase by 3%-4%, and we can be sure that no set of instructions will be handed out at the same time, to advise us how to pay for increases of 22% out of an income that remains, in effect, static, or which becomes worth less and less, and which bears little comparison with rising prices of clothes, fuel, food, transport - & rent and rates !

It will have been noticed that the greater proportion of people who took part in the protest were women. Maybe some of them reflected bitterly on the fact that Betty Sinclair died in conditions against which she had fought all her life. It is, perhaps, women who will suffer most from increases such as these - for women still bear the greater responsibility for the efficient running of the home, and it is women who spend long hours week in, week out, trying desperately to create warmth and comfort in Housing Executive houses and flats that reek of neglect and decay, which are no protection against the worst weather, and where walls often drip with damp and mould, and which people cannot afford to heat adequately.

In these circumstances, which worsen daily it is, perhaps, a massive rent strike, linked to other militant action (occupation of offices, leaflets, posters, marches, etc) that would be likely to be most effective in showing local bureaucrats that people have had enough and are prepared to suffer no longer. The peaceful City Hall rally will

have gained Housing Executive tenants some sympathy, but sympathy is not enough.

For adequate housing is a right, not a privilege - a right which Belfast, disgracefully, chooses to ignore. Over 15% of houses in Belfast have been declared unfit to live in, compared to 5% nationally. 22% of the inner-city homes lack 4 basic amenities of hot water, a bath, internal toilet and sink and wash hand basin. The inner city, and the public sector in particular, are areas which suffer the most. Overcrowding is also a massive problem, and at least 40% of houses need either replacement, renewal or repair.

Through a policy which includes rent increase and the selling of public sector housing, the Tories attempt to depress the living standards of working people throughout the country. The government is deaf to the problems of the housing crisis, so, either people will have to take matters into their own hands to improve conditions, or they will have to think up stronger, and louder, ways of getting the message through.



SCRAG '82



SCRAG '82

SCRAG 82, the Northern Ireland Polytechnics Students Rag magazine was littered with sexist, racist, anti Irish, non humorous jokes encased in a sinister looking cover.

It also had an interesting list of 'charities' it intended contributing towards. It included LIFE the catholic inspired/run anti woman, anti abortion group.

Any rag student coming into Just Books should take a good look at our castration on demand poster and stay well clear next year as we will be generously giving them a sledge hammer through the head!

ANIMAL LIBERATION

SIXTY-FOUR animal rights activists face court proceedings, following a Rally at Life Science Research Laboratories, Chelmsford, Essex. On April 4th., 30 activists must report to Chelmsford police station on suspicion of criminal damage. There will be a *Support Demo* at 2.45pm outside. On April 22nd., 24 activists charged with *conspiracy* are due to appear in court. A Fund has been started to help all those charged - p-l-e-a-s-e send what you can (dig deep, now !) to:

Operation Valentine Defence Fund, c/o ALF, Box 190, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

0000000

THE ANIMALS FILM may be shown on national release through EMI, depending on the success of its showing at the Gate 2 Cinema in London. If you can gather support for this film, then ring Phil Windcatt and Victor Schonfield of Slick Pics, on 01-251-3885 or 01-278-6783, they will advise and give lots of information.

In November last year, a journalist said of this film: "(It) is a polemical onslaught stuffed with footage never before shown, and a wealth of newly shot material often taken undercover, which documents almost beyond endurance, mankind's degradation, exploitation and often pointless torture of the creatures who share our planet. (It) proves, beyond contradiction, that this behaviour is not random or personal, but part of our organised society, with drug companies, government departments, scientists, military authorities, factory farmers, university research laboratories, for their own selfish ends, for profit in money or prestige. I do not know when I have come out of a press show so moved by the power of the cinema as a medium to transform the sensibility of an audience." All I can say to that is: "hear, hear..."

RECLAIM THE NIGHT MARCH

AGAINST RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
(children welcome)

STARTING AT 7.00pm SHAFTESBURY SQUARE (beside dole office) March down Gt. Victoria Street to rally at City Hall at 8.00pm, then march down Chichester Street, Oxford Street, High Street, Bridge Street and Lower Donegall Street finishing at the Art College. Bring torches, banners, placards, sparklers and balloons.

BELFAST RAPE CRISIS CENTRE TEL: 49696



NICE PLAY, SHAME ABOUT THE THEATRE

Although Gaining Ground and Outta Control are sold together we are not always in agreement about particular issues. We feel that sometimes this can be a positive thing as it may lead to a deeper discussion about political actions and meanings generally, and so hopefully to a deeper understanding of the social forces that shape our lives. One recent issue on which their has been some disagreement has been over the nature of political theatre and in particular Martin Lynch's play 'The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty', which has just finished its run at the Lyric Theatre. We are therefore printing an alternative but we feel complementary analysis of the play. I grew up just a few streets away from the Springfield Road barracks, the barracks in which Martin Lynch's play is set. As a child I remember it dark and forbidding dominating the lower Springfield Road. Then in the late 60's someone must have decided that it wasn't in keeping with the image of the modern RUC, and so it was knocked down and replaced with a bland brick and glass building popular in the 60's, the glass was to prove a great mistake it was very easy to break especially after demonstrations, and very soon it was replaced, boarded up each window, and then finally after several bombings the building itself disappeared behind corrugated iron, and lookout posts, until the front gates looked like the entrance into some sort of hell. Although Castlereagh, and Hollywood barracks may go down in the annals of history for their treatments of prisoners Springfield barracks has also built itself a reputation for its treatment of non-voluntary 'guests'. Disappearing behind the gates for three days, generally guaranteed a beating, for if the soldiers didn't batter you first on the way, then you could be certain the Special Branch would sometime.

Lynch's play takes place over a three-day interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty, picked up on a vague and totally unsubstantiated suspicion. It follows his treatment over those days, his feelings about the events, the attitudes of those harrassing him, and the others who are in the barracks at the same time. Although I've never been subjected to interrogation I felt at the end of the play as I watched Fogarty's humiliation, and his attempts to keep himself together, a little of what it must be like, to be beaten, insulted, threw about, and to be totally impotent unable to react, or hit back. In that sense the play seemed very real and frightening. At the same time as Fogarty is being questioned Willy Lagan is brought in, on a spurious charge of rioting. Lagan represents a Falls Road character and gives the play a lot of laughter, as often his lines seem to break the tension. Although I felt that at times he went a bit too far and that his presence in places spoilt the play

(in particular I found his jokes about the hunger strike in very poor taste), at other times he provided light relief in a play that was otherwise utterly depressing, and I don't feel that in the end he took the sting from the play. The fact that the play was performed in the Lyric and you had to put up with the insensitive reactions of an unpolitical middle-class audience, who through tension and fear laughed hysterically in some of the interrogation scenes, was in my opinion the real problem with the play, and although I personally was able to ignore them I became so absorbed with the stage, I think it did put other people off. Perhaps Lynch would think of transferring it to Turf Lodge. As to the portrayal of the police - I think he was right on the ball, on one hand we had the special branch, and on the other the good boys - the uniformed branch, but by the end of the play you just saw them for what they are - just every bit as bad as those who do the actual beatings, because they bury their heads in the sand, and pretend it isn't happening. And the relationships between the sexes - in this case between a male and female police constable, again showed a sexist, authoritarian relationship, which mirrored everything that Margaretta D'Arcy said about her observation of the security forces behaviour when she was in Armagh. I also think that his use of one word - cunt - illustrated the position of women in Northern Irish society. At the end of the last beating Fogarty



lying on the floor, sick, totally dehumanised by the process, is approached by a special branch man - there is only one final humiliation he can think of and that is to shout seven times in his ear CUNT' CUNT..... that is the lowest of the low, to be a woman is to be a nobody. As a woman I felt my own oppression linked with Fogarty's. In summary then I think the play is the best thing that Lynch has done so far. He has resisted the temptation nearly of having his characters make long political speeches as in 'Dockers'. I hope that he does take the play back to West Belfast.

UP YOUR NOSE PAISLEY!

The British government has at last declared its intention to extend the 1967 Homosexual Law Reform Act to Northern Ireland, thereby making all sexual acts between consenting adults over the age of 21, and done in private, no longer illegal. Its a measure of the social climate here that such a harmless request as this has taken 15 years to get here, and in the end it was only the continuous efforts of the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association, who finally took their case to the European Court in Strasborg and won, that made it possible. At the moment they are in a way, celebrating their victory, but they are aware that this is still a discriminatory law, as the legal age for heterosexual acts is much lower. The law will also not do much to change the attitudes of people here towards gays - it was clearly inferred in most of the statements put out by the so called Christian Churches last week, that gay sexuality is sick sexuality, and sickness needs to be cured. Of course some commentators were not quite so 'liberal'. The DUP have been trying to revitalise their 'save Ulster from sodomy' campaign, but given their now obvious involvement in the exploitation of young people in Kincora, they are not as yet having a great deal of success.

In the same week as the government announced the change, another court case in Strasborg was to cause them unease. This time it concerned corporal punishment in school. Two Scottish women, unable to get any response in the British courts, went to the European court because they believed that schools had no right to beat their children particularly without parental permission. The court agreed, and so it looks like new legislation will have to be drawn up to cover this. In the long run this may have repercussions for us, as corporal punishment is very prevalent in the authoritarian educational system here.

Its an interesting development that increasingly individuals are being forced to take cases which concern their rights all the way to Europe before they get any satisfaction. Firstly the fact that it takes so long to get your case heard (up to six years!) that many people simply just don't try which is obviously to the advantage of the state. Secondly though is the expense of such an undertaking, and this is particularly the case if you lose, for although the latest judgements appear to be very liberal there are many issues on which the court takes a much more traditional line (such as that relating to political prisoners). Given the success of the NIGRA, some have suggested that the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign should go to Strasborg, - this may eventually be the only avenue left open, and if so it will be some time before a woman's right to choose prevails here!

every night for ten years
but at the end
your colon dies
and then you do,
slowly and with much pain.
You get a house in the suburbs
but you work in a new plastics
factory and die at fifty-two
when your kidneys turn off.

But where else will you
work ? where else can
you rent but Smog City ?

The only houses for sale
are under the yellow sky.
You've been out of work for
a year and they're hiring
at the plastics factory.
Don't read the fine
print, there isn't any.

Marge Piercey

00000000000000000000000000000000

TOXIC THEATRE IN 3rd WORLD NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland unemployment scene looks like getting worse. 58 plants (at the time of writing) have closed down since January 81, and there have been lay-offs at twice that number of plants.

Two such cases are ICI and Courtaulds, both of Carrickfergus. These multi-national corporations, with interests all over the world, whose profits are in the billions, pulled out because they claimed that times were hard, the recession and all that. What they really did was move their plants to Third World countries, where lower wages, longer working hours, very easily-bribed governments, lots of raw materials, large grants, and an unsuspecting work-force, with such short life spans that toxic effects won't show up in, are all the attractions; leaving behind them two massive

TOXIC DUMPS in Carrickfergus, thousands unemployed, community upheaval and workers who have only a few years to live.

In fact, 50 of the 58 closures were by multi-national or international companies who have interests in more profitable countries.

They ripped us off, used the workers, wasted our land, sold us their shit.

Then fucked off.

British Enkalon is another example. They are a subsidiary of the multi-national giant AKZO, employing 100,000 clerical staff and a manual work-force of 380,000 and a profit of 2 Billion dollars last year. Yet they had large lay-offs at their plant in Antrim in 81 and in Jan 82 announced a possible cut of 1,800 in the remaining work-force 'due to the recession.' We hear only yesterday that they are to shut down completely. Akzo also owned Ferenka in Limerick. Enkalon, too, are in the toxic chemical business. Multinationals such as ICI, Akzo, and Du Pont in Derry are part of a chemical industry that has its toxic fingers in just about everything. They dictate to the corrupt British & Irish and world governments, local authorities, world banking organisations and just about every other industry - and US.

The kind of manipulation that goes on at top level board meetings and the the Golf Club, or Rotary clubs, is unbelievable. Last year, the British government stepped up its Overseas investment programme to £6billion, due to multinational persuasion. While small industry was crying out for government investment, in order to survivethat £6billion overseas investment caused high interest rates at home, which stops home investment into industry, i.e. "bigger profit with your money in the bank". This, combined with a suffering industry anyway, caused that big ½ mill-

ion jump in unemployment. Then, while the 3 million mark is reached, the multinationals and government tell us that this high unemployment figure can only mean a recession. Then, the multinationals here, as elsewhere across the water, cry 'wolf', and pull out, blaming the recession; leaving more unemployment, and go creating shit in 3rd World countries, where they haven't yet heard of the ways of multinationals.

What's happening next is too far-fetched to believe

Recently set up is the Industrial Development Board, a northern IDA, whose concern is to attract new foreign business to Northern Ireland. Will they repeat what has happened in the last 20 years; will they attract firms who will take advantage of big tax cuts, government grants, and a trained workforce screaming out for jobs ? **Many of which will be subsidiaries of the multinationals that just left us.**

Then, when they have used up all of the attractions, they fuck off in the guise of the next world economic recession.

A spokesperson for the IDB, said, "we do not aim to do as well as the IDA, down south. We will do much better."

Does this, I wonder, mean creating industries such as the NET factories in Wicklow and Cork, where they spent one billion pounds, caused massive government overseas borrowing, and high inflation ? Then used up two thirds of all extracted natural gas and created a product, Nitrogen, using ammonia, a highly toxic chemical, which we don't need at all; cow dung does a far better job on the farm.

Now, the NET plants might have to close down, leaving economic budgets like the last one, to pay for that overseas debt and wide-spread POLLUTION.

BUT THESE ARE ONLY SMALL PROBLEMS, WHEN WE LOOK AT THE REAL DANGER OF THE TOXIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.....

Food additives, agricultural fertilisers and pesticides, lead from petrol, a host of other things and everyday exposure to toxic chemicals at WORK and in the GENERAL ENVIRONMENT, have caused mental stress and strain, tension, a general subduing of the intellect, throughout the Western world. Drugged up to the eyeballs, we become apathetic to the multinationals' goings-on, and expect it as 'part of society'Down south, after the budget, what REALLY should have happened was a REVOLUTION, not a change of party politics !!

FOR THE SUBVERSIVE

Any real resistance to their policy of destruction is quashed by myths, such as the restriction of information availability about toxic chemicals to the workers and to the public, because, if other companies know what is in the product or how it is made, they will sell it, too.

This is shit. Any company in the chemical industry will have its own laboratory where tests could be carried out to find out how products are made and of what they are constituted. The myth is solely to protect industry from US !



COURTAULDS

COURTAULDS is the 69th largest company in Europe, with 300 plants in Great Britain and 70 abroad. They employ 140,000 people. Their profits were £2.8 million in 1981, a staggering fall from £114 million in 1980. They blamed the recession. Yet, their fixed and current assets rose by £400 million to a total of £1.600 million in '81. At Courtaulds in Carrickfergus, only after they shut down in '79 did their legacy become clear.

The workforce, mainly from estates such as the nearby Windmill estate, kept quiet about the whole nasty affair, in fear of losing their jobs. Jobs that had been promised 'for life.' Courtaulds pinned these workers down by the constant threat of job losses. Yet, Northern Ireland gave its best to Courtaulds; only to be re-paid with a legacy of total oppression.

Courtaulds opened in '49, after being refused permission for such a plant in England. They quickly bought off the Council to build cheap houses where their workers would eat, sleep and breed. Houses which never have been up to European standard. Houses which are now called slums by the workers' children. Courtaulds soon took over, shaping the land, the workers, and the social life, to their 'ideals'. They paid lower wages than in any other of their British plants. Women, especially were low paid. Working couples were their priority: total control: the children then suffered. Working conditions were appalling: never up to safety standards.



'THE TRENCH'

Nearly all Courtaulds' workers came into contact with 'the trench': a 2 foot wide, 6 foot deep trench, flowing through the main workshop. The trench was filled with sulphuric acid. While doing their work, & during their tea-breaks (which they didn't get paid for) the workers were exposed to *deadly gases* rising from the trench. *It slowly killed them.*

The Windmill Estate suffered badly.

MR. CLAWSON died from exposure to sulphuric acid, in his 30s. He worked at Courtaulds for 10 years. He died of a heart attack.

MR. MONTGOMERY died from lung cancer in his early 40s.

Sulphuric acid causes heart attacks and lung cancer.

There have been many deaths on the estate

amongst Courtaulds' workers. Both men and women. Women, in particular, were given the worst pay and the worst jobs. Some women went up chimneys regularly to collect samples of pollution. They came into contact with dioxin, given off from the burning of certain materials. They were unprotected. Courtaulds' attitude to women in particular is outrageous. Not only did low pay and the worst jobs apply to women, but women workers received only two weeks off (UNPAID) for pregnancy, not that Courtaulds cared, as carbon disulphate is known to cause birth defects and still-born babies. Women also have a high asthma-rate on the estate, so do children. But, lack of statistics about previous asthma cases, before Courtaulds moved in, hampered any local protest in that direction.

Female workers were also prone to dermatitis - this resulted from work in the yarn spinning process. Some claimed, and got, compensation, which was very little. All workers were in constant contact with sulphuric acid, oils, bleach and a host of other toxic chemicals. They worked in extreme conditions of heat, noise and eye-strain. The air supply was also inadequate. But workers grow used to these things. *Some didn't.*

BOB CHAPMAN died from a heart attack after living through hell. Courtaulds drains became blocked regularly with toxic waste. Regularly, deadly CS gas was pumped down by Bob to clear the drains. It didn't work. The drains never cleared up completely and CS gas built up in small pockets where the sludge never cleared. During a spell of hot weather one summer, the drains heated up and the CS gas ignited. The explosion was lethal. Bob Chapman never recovered from the shock - neither did many of the people living on the nearby Windmill Estate. Bob's death was due directly to that incident.

There have been other deaths amongst workers.

ALDERMAN JIM CRAIG died from a heart attack in his late 40s after 10 years of heart disease.

MR. NEIL died from a heart attack in his 40s also.

JACKIE McCULLOUGH is the only woman known to have died directly as a result of working at Courtaulds. She died in her 30s.

OWEN O'TOOL, a non-smoker, died of cancer in his early 50s. All worked in Courtaulds. There were and will be many more murdered. Courtaulds knew what their workers were being exposed to, and the risks involved. They never introduced the slightest safety standards.

Not only was working in the plant oppressive, but Courtaulds, and all its toxic shit spilled onto the Windmill Estate.

'SNOWSTORM'

White fluff blew from the 200 foot eyesore of a chimney over and on to the estate. At the worst times, it blew through open windows like a 'snowstorm'. It stuck to cloths and killed plants. The 'snow' was processed 'celluloid'. Cellulose is toxic in large doses such as the 'snowstorms'. People were also kept awake at night, suffering, choking on the fumes blowing over from Courtaulds. We can only guess at what fumes were present. Sulphuric acid and sulphur

for certain. They were released at the railway-end of Courtaulds in the form of toxic black smoke. Courtaulds maintained in a public statement that the smells were *healthy and killed germs !!!!!* They never told that to the thousands of white butterflies in the area, which, after Courtaulds opened up **turned jet black from those fumes.**

In fact, all wild life in the area suffered ... foxes, hares and birds no longer exist near Windmill, and farmers took all livestock away. Only rats stayed. Rat-Watching is now a popular past-time.

Courtaulds have gone; made their millions, and while they, and many others, conquer the 3rd World, their legacy lives on.

Behind Courtaulds, between it and the



Windmill Estate, lies a **TOXIC DUMP**, overflowing with bubbling sulphuric acid, celluloses, rubber, plastics and a host of other toxic chemicals.

The DUMP was started in the early 60s, small and tidy. It is now 400 yards long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet deep and stretches the whole way behind the Windmill Estate. **It is still getting bigger.**

All grass, trees and plants in the area are now dead, or dying as the dump slides and slidders slowly towards them and the houses. To decrease the size of the Dump, workers were ordered to set fire to it regularly. This has been happening on and off since the 60s. Only when the blazes reach large proportions does the Fire Brigade arrive. No sooner is the fire out than it's ablaze again - the fumes added to those from the factory, are slowly killing all life nearby, even TODAY.

Still, as always when the blaze gets out of hand, black rats, dirty and disease-ridden, go on the rampage. Evicted by the flames, they find new dwellings among the Windmill houses. Rat-Watching is now a matter of great importance.

TOXIC DUMPS pose the greatest health hazard to this community - ICI also have one down the road.

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Love Canal, a disused canal filled with toxic waste, threatened the lives of thousandsDioxin, which was present also, slowly moved under the houses near Love Canal. It and other chemicals in the sludge, rotted foundations, caused gardens to sub-

side, and gave off toxic gases which rose in the living rooms and kitchens. Children were born deformed and the lives of many adults were endangered.

Will this happen on the Courtaulds' Windmill Estate?

THEIR LEGACY LIVES ON.

Living on the Windmill Estate is now hell - those who lost their jobs at Courtaulds, 73% of all workers on the estate, are now facing the social consequences of Courtaulds. Broken families are now the norm, due to alcoholism, especially amongst women. The dole and the low level of existence that it brings with it, and delinquent children, neglected while their parents sold their lives to the company, and now seeing others die. The constant threat of a very early death. These are not isolated cases; all estates around Carrick are having similar problems, as a direct result from Courtaulds: 3,000 families in all.

What happened here is happening in many places throughout Northern Ireland, Britain and the rest of this planet, wherever the mindless multinational industry occurs.they have become our oppressors, they must be STOPPED. They MUST BE STOPPED.

Thousands of new chemicals have been unleashed into the working and community environment. Chemicals such as vinyl chloride and benzene; used quite commonly but still carcinogenic. Their regulation will not prevent the toll of death over the next 30-40 years. A policy of 'waiting to count the bodies' is totally unacceptable as the sole means of identifying further carcinogens or any other toxic chemical for that matter.

There are hundreds of known chemicals that affect fertility, yet instead of stopping their use, the British government approves their use. The British government approves further research into test-tube babies and genetic control.

CANCER kills one person in every five. Its lethal force is still growing. Cancer is

Derry, ICI, Norbrook and BOC. We also have a range of 3rd level educational complexes adding to it, and government-run buildings such as the Agriculture & Food Sciences building, up the Malone Road. 3-5 million tonnes of toxic waste will have been produced in Northern Ireland in 1981, according to government figures. Of which 90% will end back on the land. WE are threatened, as a result.

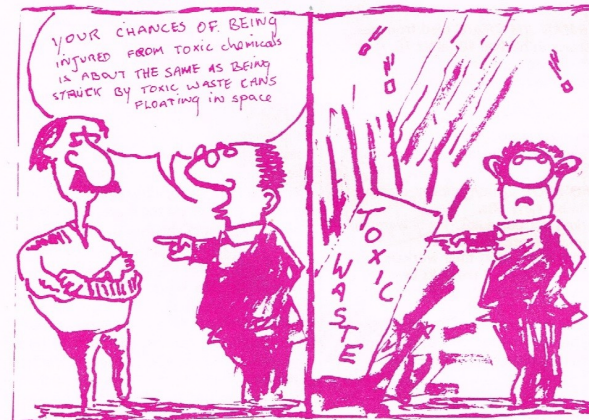
Many of these wastes have long life-spans during which they remain toxic. Carbon disulphate, for instance, needs 22 THOUSAND years, before becoming 'tame', a lot of movement will happen behind Courtaulds in that time.

Another long-lifer produced here is radiation. Courtaulds use radio-active fibres. The Belfast techs experiment with Strontium 90.

Potential 'Love Canals' exist all over the North and South for that matter. Borders don't keep toxic waste out, either.

The chemicals from these DUMPS are never safe as they stand; they get washed into the watertable, get buried up and rise up our noses. They can change structure from hard waste to gases, rise and pollute the air. There are many ways for toxic chemicals to move. Some have been carried hundreds of miles, as in the case of Sweden, where ACID RAINS fell and killed trees and fish; they were a result of German industrial wastes. In Dublin, too, an incident happened that proves the point and which shows the dangers. Do you remember a red sand dust-storm being blown over Dublin in 1980? Everywhere was covered with it. It came from the Sahara Desert. Harrisburg is nearer Dublin would have been wiped out if it had been radiation, instead of sand.

Love Canal, too, showed those problems up. Dioxin, one of the deadliest known chemicals, was present in a sludge made up of so many chemicals that it ate its way through the foundations of houses and rose up in back gardens. People living near Love Canal became extremely worried, as gases rose from the sludge. Some people fainted from the effects of the fumes. Others, later, found birth defects in the new-born children.



overwhelmingly a disease caused by chemical and physical agents in the environment. Occupationally-linked cancer accounts for between two and three of every five cancer deaths. Smoking is not a social problem. MULTINATIONALS ARE!

IN NORTHERN IRELAND there are 42 known toxic dumps. Many are at the back of plants such as Courtaulds, Du Pont in

TOXIC WASTE is a clear statement about the mentality of the 65 year old board of Directors at the head of multinational companies. "Use it up, throw it away, forget tomorrow and the children. Profit Now!" It spells out the power held by some who can fuck up our lives. The Power that the System, religion and all the other oppressors gave them.

AGRO-UNCULTURED

We can also see their attitude towards us in the food and medicine that they and their kind want us to consume.

Food is contaminated with toxic shit, all processed food, drink, even water, and most vegetables and meat.

Northern Ireland used 2 million gallons of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides, all containing toxic chemicals, in 1980 alone. A further 3/4 million tonnes of fertilisers were used, and, in our meat, 16,000 gallons of hormones, protein, vitamins & medicine. We end up eating it all. We end up with Toxic dumps IN OUR BODIES.

Medicine, too, is no longer in our interests. It is geared towards profit. Drugs of all kinds are given to us by those to whom we entrust with our lives. Many illnesses are caused by society: tension, fear, depression, cancer, heart and brain failure. We want prevention, not cure! This big, neat, synthetic approach to the land and to our bodies, is irrespective of our health.

THE FACTS

245T, a weedkiller (Agent Orange of Vietnam fame) is banned by many countries; the US and most EEC countries most noticeably. Yet, In Britain, it is still used widely by British Rail, the Forestry Commission, and is sold by Boots. 245T contains Dioxin. The NUAAW have fought hard to get it banned. In 79 they won their case: today it is STILL in use. British Rail for example, use 245T along their railway lines. Recently, they sprayed the Belfast/Newry line and the Belfast suburban line. Dioxin, when sprayed, does not settle. 73% blows away in the wind, the other 27% rests on plants, to be picked up by animals or children, or washed into the soil.

Another used here in Northern Ireland is DBCP, a pesticide. It causes infertility. Farmers spray with it once a year according to guide-lines set down for its use by the government. We, as a result, are eating DBCP.

Out of the 102 million tonnes of food that we eat, 1 million tonnes will contain DBCP

The food and drug industry needs proper investigation here in Northern Ireland. 'This is only the snow on the tip of the iceberg.'

BE ALIVE :::: STAY ALIVE !

To gather information about toxic industries and chemicals, check with the libraries. Talk to sympathetic workers in the factories and to those who have been laid off by the companies. Contact ASTMS, as they produce some very good paper & policy documents.

If you have NO way of publishing your facts, most, if not every, alternative or "lefty" paper will do so.

Especially Outta Control. TOXIC CHEMICAL storage poses a great problem. In Belfast there are 7 official toxic storage tanks and warehouses; we can only guess at how many unofficial ones there are.

23 people were murdered in Flixborough, when Sodium Chlorate exploded in a warehouse. The death toll would have been much higher but for the fact that it was a Bank-Holiday !

BAC, c/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.
Tel: Belfast 25426.

outta control

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

ISSUE TWENTY SIX

APRIL 1982

Ireland 10p Outside Ireland 20p

Sold with **GAINING GROUND**

"GUILTY"!

During the past month an unusual trial took place in Belfast. A 'Special Branch Officer' was charged with murdering a fellow 'Officer' as well as with 26 other offences, including armed robbery, hijacking, shootings and possession of explosives. Most of the evidence against Charles Mc Cormick SB man from Ballymena was given by Anthony O'Doherty, an agent, who worked for five agencies, IRSP, PIRA, CID, SB and the ARMY, and who is at present serving 18 years for many of the offences Mc Cormick was charged with.

Mc Cormick was sentenced to 20 years. All the evidence given by O'Doherty was unaccepted by the judge, who saw him as nothing more than a rouge... Not very often do we get the opportunity to see a member of the Special Branch on trial, or for that matter, learn about the relationship between the SB and their agents. Anthony O'Doherty tells his own story..... "It was at Murlough Bay, Bally-

castle, I was selling the United Irishman. He came over to me to buy a newspaper, passed a remark and we got into a general conversation". The next meeting of the two was in January '72 when Mc Cormick arrested O' Doherty and brought him to Magilligan (holding centre) about a robbery in Portlengone. He was then interned on the prison ship Maidstone for 4-5 months and then for two months at Long Kesh.

"Mc Cormick met me when I was released. The talk was about me getting in on the Provie scene. Nobody suggested I join the Provies..... I think there was about 8 to 10 land mines I told about which the army diffused." The first gun he had was a .38 black powder gun, O'Doherty said he told Mc Cormick that this weapon was no use to him and he received a .32 revolver instead.

It was around this time that another member of the Special Branch had been kidnapped and O'Doherty's name came up in the subsequent interrogation. "In the winter of 73 I was conned into going down to Monaghan. I walked into a hotel and bought a drink and noticed everything wasn't all right", O'Doherty tried to leave when he was tackled by the doorman, "me and him had a fight and I got out across the car park and two more men grabbed

me". He fought them off and ran up the street.

It was at this time O'Doherty was re-armed by Mc Cormick with a .45 revolver, a .303 rifle and a stengun, "picked up from a Provie dump outside Swatragh".

"The PIRA sent a team after me....they stuck a gun in me, and they were for taking me away-interrogating me and I would say, probably to shoot me". O'Doherty said he was driven off in a car but the IRA men did not know that he had a gun down his boot. "I put the gun in the drivers ear and told them to turn round". At this time O'Doherty started to do jobs organised by Mc Cormick in an attempt to get "back in to the scene". The first was to be an attack on the UDR. "We discussed it and I wanted to know how many UDR would be coming down the road. I was under the impression there was only going to be one jeep. I saw one jeep coming very slowly, but there was two more jeeps coming behind with their lights off. I just fired into the air as I was one hundred yards short. But there was maybe 100 to 200 rounds fired back at me. I didn't expect so much firing". The next attack was to be on the RUC "the police jeep came down the road

Contd. on back page

UNITED STATES TERROR

The statistics of death in Central America are so enormous as to be numbing. In El Salvador, 30,000 people have been killed by government forces (army and 'death-squads') over the last 2 years. That's over 1,000 every month.

In neighbouring Guatemala, 9,000 people have been killed by the government in

the last 18 months, and, since 1978, 13,000 have 'disappeared'.

These are the governments which the US and her allies prop up in economic and military aid. The repression has increased, & the aid, as the resistance to the governments has turned to war.

El Salvador: This country of almost 5 million people has had continuous military dictatorships for 50 years, and has the greatest US involvement. The State Department describes the war there as 'part of the global problem between the USA & USSR'.

The Assistant Secretary of State for Inter American Affairs, Thomas Enders, put it

Contd. on back page



A rocket being carried at the picket held outside the U.S. Consulate in Belfast on the 24th March to protest against U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

THE BRITISH are off to war - officially this is time; 8000 miles away, with the full backing of the hysterical media and a blood-thirsty parliament. They plan to re-take a few islands (rather than hold on to part of one as is the "unofficial" case here)...the Falklands which they 'captured' from the Argentinians 150 years ago! It's a strange war... fighting the nasty fascist foreigner with everything at their disposal, including nuclear weapons and a prince. Ironically enough, the navy they are fighting was re-equipped, armed and the sailors trained by the Brits themselves!! Such is the bizarre logic of British arms deals that even the most sophisticated missiles the Argentinians possess, were bought with US dollars from Shorts in Belfast (in a recently-made hush-hush secret deal!).

War-talk certainly suits the fascist junta in Argentina - economic collapse can be forgotten amidst national war pride... it also helps hide the Argentinian practice of torture and murder of their poor. Not a chirp from our politicians over that... it might interrupt arms sales! But walking on a

WAR by Royal appointment!

British island, insulting the governor...that's a different matter - for that the whole population of Buenos Aires could be blown asunder!! British hypocrisy knows no bounds - all this for the defence of the 'British rights' of 1800 islanders? Only the Daily Mail believes that! The islanders are feudal peasants, working for one British company who own the island. The 'Falklanders' live in tied cottages and are shipped out one they are too old to work or if they get 'injured'. The company, 'Coalite Chemicals' make the world's most dangerous poison, 245T; the multi-purpose killer used in Viet-

nam by the Americans, and sold by Boots in Donegal Place.

Hardly the 'British rights' that dispatches the navy on a £50million voyage, before a shot gets fired. More like the nonsense logic of imperialism and so-called national pride which comes from bank statements and electioneering rather than the heart. And nothing can be more sickening than a British Labour party trying to be more British, more jingoist, more bloodthirsty than the opposition. And when your greatest ally - America - supplies the money to Argentina (for the great anti-communist crusade) and claims both sides "as their friends"..... surely, surely, something has gone wrong.

The thought of two navies blowing each other apart at its little navies here - but always, always, it's the poor, the oppressed who'll pay and who will suffer in the end. In Argentina, in Britain, in Ireland.

Business as Usual! the Northern Ireland Electricity Service, who blundered into building unwanted generating equipment at Kilroot, are to sell off the surplus..... to Argentina!!

AN INTRODUCTION TO

ANIMAL

In the demand that we make of ourselves to achieve self-management and liberation from the oppressions of everyday life, it is clear that many of us, as human beings, steadily ignore (or are ignorant of) the fact that, in the process, we continue to oppress animal life. In ways that are not always obvious, humanity assumes that its species alone has the superior right to survival and to the spaces and resources of the earth. In our struggle to 'progress' and 'develop' we oppress not only other members of our own species, but take part in a systematic destruction of animal life & freedom and natural habitat.

Life on earth does not exist in isolation from different forms or species. It exists in complex chains of inter-dependency. Remove one link in the chain and all other forms of life suffer as a result. Successful life depends on a delicate harmony between the many factors in the chain, or cycle. If we continue to rear animal life as nothing more than a commodity to be exploited and ruled as we dictate, then we are in danger of destroying that harmony (in ecological and human terms) and bringing about an imbalance that we may never be able to correct. At the moment, animal life is used to support and amuse human life, to pander to its vanities, to prop up status and prestige. Little consideration is given to the question of restoring the right of animal life to its own freedom and expression of its needs. We trap, breed and slaughter animals for food, hunt them to the point of extinction, use them with impunity in 'scientific' experiments for chemical warfare, medicinal 'advance', cosmetics, household products, and a vast range of other commodities, we enslave them as 'pets' for our own amusement, torture them in circuses in degrading 'tricks', we pursue them for 'sport', we cull them when numbers get economically threatening, we imprison them in zoos to remind us what they look like.

Whilst this domination continues, we confirm the notion of superiority itself. As with species, it goes with race, colour, creed, sex, intelligence etc., against members of our own species.

Whilst we stubbornly retain the capacity to oppress animal life, so we lose that part of our humanity which cherishes notions of freedom. Whilst we torture and slaughter animal life, so we can transfer these acts (should the need arise) to humanity itself.

LIBERATION



It is with those practices that manifestly involve systematic cruelty and exploitation with which the animal liberation movements concern themselves. This concern, and related direct action, is seen as an important stage in personal, and wider, revolutionary re-discovery. The radical theory of animal liberation is fundamental to the everyday lives of a growing number of anarchists and others.

In the near future, OUTTA CONTROL plans to publish a Supplement devoted to the subject of animal liberation in the North of Ireland. If you wish to contribute in any way (and we hope you will) then please write to: ALF, Box 287, 7 Winterton Street, Belfast 1. Hope to hear from you.

LETTERS

"Dear Editors, your anonymous interviewee discredits his staunch gay liberation with inaccuracies and a mindless commitment to what can only be described as national socialism. The enormous badge I asked him to remove was not, as stated, but in the form of a giant tricolour with 'Brits Out' in big letters and a tiny slogan about gays round the edge.

My sole concern was the safety of myself and the other voluntary workers at the Carpenter Club. We would have to bear the brunt of stopping the violence it would have inevitably provoked. As it was, the sectarian leaflets created enough agro, with people setting fire to them etc., in the absence of our brave quartet. In discussions afterwards, the co-workers felt the leaflets were dangerously inflammatory.

NIGRA's policy is clear and simple - to work the system in the state we are in, the United Kingdom. My own integrationist views are well known, I hope. I am not a unionist. I assent to the democratic majority's wish to be in the UK. As a gay, I recognize no frontiers. My only wish is that other well-meaning progressives could see that this sterile and hopeless war has only shattered the working class, blighted thousands of lives and produced an investment free economy.

There have been enough accidental gay casualties of the war for us earnestly wanting to avoid any in the Carpenter Club.

This venue, tottering as it is from the commercial competition of the Midland Hotel (owned by Unionist business-men/the Hastings Group), who could evict gays tomorrow, is sadly given no credit by your interviewee, who nonetheless relates how so many of his gay comrades clear out, emigrating to the cosmopolitan capitals of these islands.

Objectively, who is the real partitionist/imperialist?

Love

Jeff Dudgeon

Letter from London

"I enjoy reading your magazine and find it generally well-informed, especially Gaining Ground, but feel a bit pissed-off with a piece in the last issue. Having come from a farming/peasant background, I have often heard the term 'redneck' levelled with ridicule and abuse at me, as often, say, as 'culchie'. Your definition is obviously (hopefully?) quite different. (Outta Control, March '82). Whereas, in my own case, it means 'unsophisticated' or 'stupid'. You used it in the sense of 'reactionary' to describe the wilful ignorance of the state concerning marijuana. I hope you can appreciate my confusion. 'Nil aor cat chomh brodach le cat siopa.' le gra, Gerry O'Maille

OC replies: "Point taken. The wording was more of a gut reaction to sitting through a court case & seeing someone sent to prison & 2 others humiliated by the 'law' & 'laws'. It was trying to convey the vindictiveness of all concerned. "The Drug Squad are vindictive bastards" is a better way of saying it.

Calling all bookshops

OC/GG have been going for over two years, and, at the moment, are subsidised by other activities of the BAC. Our aim is to make them self-financing, while keeping the price as low as possible.

According to our British distributor - A distribution - WE have to subsidise every copy sold in Britain. A strange state of affairs.

We would like to work out the finances of distributing direct to Bookshopsand would ask shops to let us know how many copies of OC/GG they now receive, and when they receive them.

AND, most important of all....WE NEED MORE SUBSCRIPTIONS. It costs only £4 - the price of a round of drinks!



Here are two reactions from a 15 and a 13 year old at St. Peter's Secondary School, on the use of the strap:

"In St. Peter's School they use a thick leather strap. It is about 1/2 inch thick, 2 inches wide and 18 inches long. This strap, made in England, is stiff. You are made to put one hand on top of the other and (CRACK) right across the fingers. It is painful; the masters enjoy it; they threaten you with it, throw it at you; laugh when you cry. The first years', who are only 11, get six of these for beaking."

"In St. Peter's Sec. School they use a strap to cane people. Some masters have put lead in them. They are dangerous; they threaten you with them. They are very sore, too. That's why we must put a stop to it."



William Whitelaw admitted recently that canisters of CS gas and supplies of plastic bullets have been delivered to police forces in England, Scotland and Wales. It appears that these bastions of lore n' order are preparing to learn from the experience of the RUC and British army in Northern Ireland - how many riots, or other such in surgent activity, will it take before those forces start maiming and killing there on the scale experienced here, and how will they attempt to justify their political expediency?

ATLANTIS DISAPPEARING

ATLANTIS is a commune in Donegal..... a large house and a little bit of land on the mainland, six cottages and more land on an island. Effectively run and organised by a triumvirate of English women, they delight in energy and activity, radical therapy and self sufficiency and helped to initiate the end of uranium exploration in Donegal.

The media delighted in sensationalising their every move, even their latest move to an unknown destination in South America. Outta Control asked them why they were leaving and what they had gained from five years in the West of Ireland.....

THANK YOU for your letter and request to do an article for Outta Control about our move to South America.

It's much easier to answer questions about our decision sitting here in Shit City than it would be if I were on Inishfree Island in Donegal with our baby goats, chickens, rocks, grass, wild sea and sky around me. There I often wonder why? So it's good to be asked the questions again and again, as we are. Finding the answers inside us is therapeutic and clarifying for ourselves.

Ok, first to the Qs you have already asked in your letter - and then I'll ask all the others that your political audience will naturally come up with in their minds, like 'Aha but what about...?'

1. You ask: *Why is Atlantis leaving?*

I answer: Originally it was a PLOT amongst the three main women - myself, my sister and my daughter, to LEAVE THE MEN BEHIND. We hated all the men we knew or ever had known in Europe, and thought 'bugger them', we'll go and marry Indian chiefs who will appreciate us, and they can rot.

Well, shortly after that, because I was in a gleeful, jubilant, free-flowing frame of mind, I met and had a baby with an (awful) Irishman, plus we started realizing that what we women at Atlantis were experiencing with men was happening *everywhere*, i.e. as the more sensitive side of life becomes more appreciated, men feel out of their depth and proceed to SULK, and abandon *everything* including their traditional on-top-ness in bed. They say, 'Well, if you bitches are going to get stropky in other areas, we'll withdraw from you the One Thing you can't possibly do yourselves. Ha! Ha!, i.e. a Lysistrata in reverse.

Also we read about Andean Indians and other remnants of previous civilizations, and met a few South Americans and realized that EVERYTHING IS AWFUL EVERYWHERE. Of course there is no golden continent over there where men are men and appreciate women who are women. NONETHELESS, Notwithstanding, and regardless:

The fact of the matter is that we've finished with Europe.

Before your pious politicos (I was one once and I bet I was more pious and more politico than any of you) start mooing about Responsibility At Home, and Britain Needs You, and Cop-Out, and all that, may I mention that I'll be forty by the time this article comes out, have been sitting and marching on pavements and doing an international internal study of jail-walls and generally been putting my feet where my mouth was since I was a child. My parents were Commies, and although that is, of course, a Bum Trip, it was still a fairly brave thing to be in the atmosphere of post-war Cold War England, i.e. don't bore me with complaints of 'Cop-out artist' I'm not, and nor are the people I live with. Right, so from age 17 to 27 I worked in CND and associated movements against Nuclear Weapons. And here in England, these last days of ours, we're helping CND in many unspectacular ways, such as sitting up late sewing banners for them; and there in Donegal, as you know, we had much to do with starting the successful anti-Uranium campaign.

But the Question for us is: *Do we want to live here even if we unilaterally disarm tomorrow?* And the answer is a resounding NO THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I have noticed that all shades of left-wingers who complain about all sorts of things Wrong with Society *only mean* frilly twiddly bits on top, even when they talk about 'the need to change society at root'. The more conventional the left-wing, the fewer bits they want to change of course: fighting for 'the right to work' is an absolute *mystery* to me for example. Wanting higher wages - to buy what? and live where? - is something that has always left me less than excited. Wanting 'better education', 'more freedom in the schools' and so on, when I abhor the whole idea of education *per se*, means nothing to me. Nor does the concept of 'ore and better hospitals' - help! No bloody thanks. The Welfare State I'm afraid I can't abide, it is deadening, it *does* crush initiative, just like the awful Tories say. More and better housing? Oh god, what does that mean? Cheap modern buildings? Extended cities? I can't bear it. All the wilds of Ireland and Scotland and the islands surrounding us are EMPTY. There are fields to be sown there's food to be grown. I don't *believe* in people's troubles in this part of the world. It's like sticking your nose in a dustbin and complaining it smells. Yes, it smells, so I don't want to live in a dustbin.

LOTS AND LOTS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DO. Good bloody luck to them. Just because I was born here, doesn't mean I'm going to stay here.

People go bananas when they hear of our plans. It's like if in a huge jail where people had been incarcerated for years, a group of prisoners noticed there was a wide gap in the fence - a bit wild and windy out there, but a gap nonetheless, and they said 'come on chaps, we're off'; and all the other prisoners were so appalled at the possibility that all they were suffering was not really necessary, that they put all their energy into trying to tell the escapees it was *impossible* or *immoral* to escape.

Well, guess what, we're going to attempt the Impossible, even if others consider it

Immoral.

You wouldn't believe the amazing set of reasons we've accumulated on paper from people having a brainstorm because we're sailing away. Everything from the classic, 'The Atlantic isn't a puddle you know' (??) to 'the Andes are a desert you know' and 'the natives will be frightened by you screaming in the night' (????).

We don't like cigarettes, cars, cinemas, newspapers, shops, packets of anything, doctors, hospitals, aeroplanes, concrete, silly clothes, books, 'education', TV or anything else the 20th century has so kindly donated.

We like wood, stone, wind, rocks, sea, sky, grass, animals you don't chop up, hard manual labour from morn till night, babies born at home, dying in our own time and way, walking barefoot, fighting, making our own rules, fun, fierceness, theatre and music of our own making, simple food and sun-and wind-burned bodies.

To have these things (they're called 'life') we're willing to face heights, depths, storm, cold, possible hunger, definite fear, unusual illnesses, some babies stillborn (but no babies born surrounded by machines & masked men), maybe shorter fuller lives, certainly more fulfilling deaths.

2. You ask: *What did you achieve/get out of your stay in Ireland?*

I love every minute of my memory of Ireland, from the moment I first crossed the frontier at Strabane, till the day I'll wave goodbye to Burtonport from our boat 'Atlantis'.

I have loved the moody irrationality of the Irish. I love everything about the Irish that is totally UN-English: I have loved our old lady neighbour screaming at the top of her voice 'Screamers!!' I have loved all the snooty puritanical Catholic men of the daytime metamorphosing into hunting creatures creeping round our doors at night-time. I have loved having, via my daughter who has mingled so well, the lid taken off the Catholic Village Front so I could glimpse the utterly human outlets of adulteries and fornications and contraception and wife-swapping and all the other tension-releases from the impossible human strait-jacket of the Nuclear Family. (No wonder they project so magnificently on to a COMMUNE.)

I have loved the haystacks and the peatstacks and the potato-piles and the donkeys and the old men and the bumpy roads and the crazy gales.

What the men do to themselves in the pubs and in their cars, I have not loved.

Most of all, of course, I have loved the primitive beauty of our island Inishfree. It is precisely because I have loved nature in the raw on that island so much, that I am moving: I remember years ago looking out from Inishfree and noticing that I could hear *cars* on the mainland, and of course see masses of *lights* - Dungloe. I hated that. I said to my companion: we must move from here one day, it is not far enough out. I imagined then an island farther out in the Atlantic. I didn't know much geography. I looked at a map and saw the next 'island' was America..... So that's where we're going.

Any questions?

Love,
Jenny.

Cont. from Front Page...

around 8.30 or 9 pm and the roof light was given a couple of flicks so I would know...."

Mc Cormick and O'Doherty had five to six fixed places to meet in counties Antrim and Derry, "he picked me up in an undercover van or in his own car....He was decent to me, very decent" said O'Doherty, he would give me money, feed me, give me clothes and was generally good to me. We were like brothers at that stage because I was depending on him and up to a point he was depending on me. He didn't seem to have any other agents working for him".

"I had no money and Charlie had no money, and we were just touring around and he asked me out of the blue could I do a robbery."

PLANNING THE FIRST ROBBERY

"He guaranteed me 100% that there would be no army or police. He said he could look after the police and he could find out what the UDR were doing in relation to patrols."

"We decided the only way to get a car was to hi-jack one". O'Doherty wearing military style clothing and armed with a .303 rifle, waited at a roadside and stopped two cars. "I got in and tried to start the car and nothing happened. The woman was sort of distressed and I told her to get in and I went to the next car with a man in it. I told him to get out and keep walking". O'Doherty parked the car in a quarry outside Cushendall and waited all night. He then parked the car outside the bank and went in armed with the grenade (which Charlie's landlady had seen "lying around the place") and the pistol, plus the pillow case. After the pillow case had been filled with money he drove off and pulled up outside Knocknacarry Post Office outside Cushendall and he also robbed. He then left the car at the pre-arranged spot and hid the money and weapons under a tree root and hid in a wood until it was dark. "Charlie came along, he was driving the Special Branch van, we picked up everything and headed back to Ballymenato

Charlie's house. We dumped everything in the garage, went into the house and he made me a fry and brought me a change of clothes. I stayed in his house that night."

SECOND ROBBERY

"Charlie heard that the following Tuesday was a good day to hit the bank again. Both went this time. "I did the demanding and the threatening. I was carrying a pistol and the pillow case, I put it through the drawer and they filled it with money". O'Doherty said he did not know the exact amount stolen but he could safely say he got his share.

THIRD RAID

O'Doherty said a colleague of Mc Cormick's had become suspicious. "Charlie got me a wig out of the Special Branch office in Ballymena and a pair of sun glasses of his own". However when he got to the bank, "they thought it was the same fellow back again, they were angry looking, you could see the look of contempt, disdain, on their faces. I came out and tried to start the car. The car wouldn't start, I gave it a couple of pushes with my shoulder and nothing happened. Some two or three boys were working near the bank, one of them said to me did I want a push, I didn't really say very much to them".

FOURTH ATTEMPT

O'Doherty said that on the day of the robbery he, "wasn't in the mood", and Mc Cormick bought him a bottle of brandy to "gee" him up a bit. O'Doherty said that he got into a stolen car and drove to the Northern Bank in Armoyle. However when he produced a gun in the bank one of the staff set off the alarm and he fled empty handed, "I walked down the street, casually, to the car but it wouldn't start. I ran her down the hill and she started. The car ran out of petrol about a mile outside Armoyle and I just dumped it and headed across the fields."

SHOOTING

O'Doherty explained how Mc Cormick was sure Sgt. Campbell was "on to them" and he would have to go. He then asked O'Doherty to shoot him but he refused. Mc Cormick decided to do it himself. He left

the car, disconnected the rear light over the rear registration saying to O'Doherty "would you be kind enough to stay in the car"; he left fags and a lighter and went off down the lane carrying a revolver and a rifle. He arrived back ten minutes later, saying, "that's the end of it or the start of the trouble."

When he saw Mc Cormick a couple of days later, he mentioned the shooting to him. "Charly said to me, 'the subject is dead, that's it.'"

BOMBS AWAY

Again there was some suspicion with O'Doherty and Mc Cormick, this time Mc Cormick suggested that there should be a couple more attacks on him and others to give the impression that the Proxies were operating in the area. O'Doherty's attitude was, "that if it kept Mc Cormick happy, he was happy." O'Doherty said they made a bomb in the shed at Mc Cormick's lodgings. "Charlie seemed to know more about it than me".

Mc Cormick then visited a policeman's house, O'Doherty planted the device and fired a shot at the house to lure the security forces. It was hoped, that some of them or the policeman would trip over the booby trap bomb when they were investigating the shooting.

O'Doherty also described, how he and Mc Cormick had earlier planned a gun attack on the home of another policeman. "It was to keep me generally in the swing of things republicanwise." O'Doherty said that a number of other possible victims were discussed, but this particular policeman was "just handy".

O'Doherty also told how he and Mc Cormick carried out two robberies at Cargin Post Office. He said that Charlie picked the village "because it's a catholic area and there would be more money from family allowances."

Mc Cormick on reply to what his drinking habits were said he did "take a drink, but never had to be lifted out of the gutter" and what he thought of O'Doherty. "I am completely innocent, how could you take the word of that lying bastard!"

Cont. from Front Page...

more succinctly when he said that the sea lanes, trade routes, and oil supplies were at risk. The US is more concerned with multi-national profit and its imperialist power than with 'those who suffer oppression', as Reagan proclaimed in his end-of-year message.

So far, the US has pumped \$2 million into El Salvador, in economic and military aid. It has equipped and trained the 14,000 strong army (which faces the 6,000 strong guerrilla grouping FMLF). Reagan recently agreed to train 1,600 of the junta's troops at US bases, West Point and Fort Bragg, Texas, and also provides on-the-ground 'advisors'.

The training includes counter-insurgency methods of terrorising the population, which came to fruit between Dec 7th and 17th., 1981, when in Marazan Province, 1,000 peasants were killed - butchered, machine-gunned, or burned alive.

After last weeks elections the Duarte Coalition of Military and Christian Democrats has been replaced by a more right wing Coalition. The opposition groups refused to participate and continue their resistance. The U.S. are now in a dilemma, as they had presented the former regime as reformist, and now must justify what will inevitably be a more ruthless and reactionary government.

Guatemala:

More important, US investment in this country had led Haig, US Sec. of State, to say this month: 'In weeks or

months Guatemala will enter a crisis which could have more serious implications for the US than developments in El Salvador.' Last month's coup brought to power younger officers who saw dangers in the previous regime, first brought to power in 1945 by a CIA-backed coup. The older military had even alienated the business party UNQ because of its control over the state agencies and the General's personal enrichment.

These prompted the Carter administration in 1977, to cut off weapons transfers for breaches of human rights. But Israel and Argentina have happily filled the gap. An example of such 'breaches' occurred shortly before the recent elections, which brought General Garcia back to power. Plain clothes soldiers entered the village of Zacualpa in El Quiche and beheaded all 200 inhabitants with machetes.

The US has \$140 million invested in the country, in mainly nickel and oil. Some of the top multi-nationals involved are:

* *Good Year and Del Monte (US)* own the vast fruit and banana plantations.

* *Texaco-Amoco (US)* control the important oil industry.

* *Eximpor (Canada-US)* dominates the nickel mines.

* *Basic Resources (European, headed by J. Goldsmith of Britain)* run the copper, raw magnesite and nickel ore production.

The US is consequently worried about the increased strength of the guerrilla movement, URNG, which operates in 60% of the

country, and which has strong backing from the Indian peasantry, whose lands are being stolen by the generals.

Equally worrying for the US is the division of the army and the 'right'. Despite the coup, which replaced the older officers, the right still want power, as they now have in El Salvador, and as they would have had at the beginning of the year in Guatemala, had the army not rigged the elections.

Profit & Power:

Whether the US arms the military governments or itself intervenes, it intends to smash the resistance to oligarchic rule in Central America. By doing so, it pushes that resistance closer to the sphere of influence of the USSR and Cuba. But it might as well, as 'neutral' countries would still pose a threat to its hegemony of power in an area of profitable investment and strategic importance.

The present US administration cannot tolerate 'independence' (even in the guise of a social-democratic state), for its rate of exploitation is so intense that it requires a pliant and ruthless government to repress any moves to improve, or even control the conditions of life of the peasants and workers of Central America.

What France and Mexico want is a solution to bring the middle-classes and intelligentsia to power, to create economic and political stability, and for the US to reduce its appetite for power and profit to a more 'acceptable' level.

Gaining ground

**Sold with
Outta Control**

The right to vote or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls nor in the courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

NEW SOLUTION, NO SOLUTION

Some months ago Gaining Ground looked at the Youth Opportunities Programmes currently being provided for the 16-18 year old young unemployed. We now turn and look at the new idea the government has come up with to keep young people off the streets - the Youth Training Programme.

As with the YOP courses the priority remains the same - cutting the unemployment figures at all costs. The stated object of the new batch of courses is that there will be a guaranteed place for all young unemployed people between the ages of 16 and 18. Already though many are interpreting this guaranteed place as a compulsory place, and those young people who are not already on a YOP course or in employment, will find themselves heavily pressurised to go on a YTP course.

The schemes are to be piloted in Northern Ireland in September, (they will not be introduced into Britain until Sept 83). As our figures are higher than those in Britain we are in more need of the scheme, or at least that is the government rationale for their introduction here first. In actual fact though N.I. is being used as a testing ground for the scheme in the hope that all the snags can be ironed out here in the first year.

What will these scheme provide that is different from what already exists? In short the answer is not a great deal. One difference though is that the new courses will run for a whole year instead of the 16 weeks on most of the YOP courses.

A YTP course to get government approval must contain the following 3 elements:

1. a work placement,
 2. an educational section, (very loosely defined),
 3. basic social and lifeskills.
- Each will roughly take up one third of the total time spent on the course. That is the basic requirement, it has been left up to the colleges of Further Education in N. I. to come up with the details, for it will be these colleges who will have the main responsibility for the running of YTP. At the present time then there is much going on all over N.I. in college backrooms and boardrooms designing courses, trying to come up with the magic formula that will get Department of Manpower Services approval, and therefore a new course, possibly new staff, and more money for the college.

The incentives then in a time when the government has been cutting education and redundancy looms large in the bosom of every teacher, and college administ-

rator, are more than enough to ensure that there is nearly open warfare between the colleges in an effort to get some of the jam, in a growing atmosphere of no bread never mind butter!

While these schemes then may provide a few more jobs in the educational sector, what will they do for the young people who will be taking them. In short - next to nothing except the bother of tripping to the dole office once every two weeks. Of course it will also remove large number numbers from the register and so ease the pressure on the government, by the time they have finished the course most of them will be too old to go back on the youth register and so will be absorbed into the adult figures - how to solve youth unemployment in one easy stroke! So far the government has promised each person on the YTP £25 per week, but already the signs are that once it becomes established this will be reduced to £15 - and as young people are likely to be pressured to go on the courses, then we have an extra years compulsory schooling with a little extra pay thrown in. As well as that those young people who choose to stay on at school or go to F.E. college to take exams will be penalised, because they won't receive any money at all. (Until recently people could sign on and then do up to 22 hours per week in education - now the dole is claiming that the 22 hours must include homework, travel to and from the college and meal-breaks, which is effectively limiting any person still trying to sign on and take exams at the same time.)

The government has also stipulated that the YTP courses cannot have a formal exam element, so all these young people go in the way they come out the same. As to the job placement element, well already the YOP schemes find it difficult to get placements except in the most boring and unstimulating areas, and the situation will not improve as more and more go after less and less jobs, not to mention the fact that workers already in employment may find themselves out of a job, as their employer finds it cheaper to use free YTP labour! The ultimate value of these courses then lies as always with the government.

**JOB SEARCH
SCHEME**

Ask us for details of these schemes



LIFE-THE INSIDE STORY-AMAZING SCOOP

THE FACTS OF LIFE

On March 13th 1982, the Northern Irish branch of the anti-abortion organisation 'Life', had its first Annual Conference, in Newcastle, County Down. Since it was advertised on television, and no mention was made that it was only for Life members, or for those who supported Life's aims, then I attended. This is what I encountered.

It was soon evident that if you did not come with a closed mind, an all-embracing belief in Life's aims, activities, and a total acceptance of their caring rhetoric, despite evidence to the contrary, then you certainly were not welcome. Questions which weren't preceded by enthusiastic assurances of how wonderful 'Life' and its members were, were treated with rigid suspicion and an unwillingness to allow discussion even from their own members.

The conference which was attended by about 130 people mostly women, was opened by E.K. McGrady, the Mayor of Newcastle. He took it upon himself to tell Life how wonderful they were, and so set the tone for the rest of the day. He also boasted that the Newcastle District Council had passed a vote which rejected for Newcastle the introduction of any form of abortion law reform - I wonder if those women who have left Newcastle to seek abortion in England are aware of this? After McGrady one of the specially invited guests rose to speak to the faithful. Professor Scarisbrick, lecturer in history at Warwick University, gave what purported to be a history of the 1967 Abortion Act. Detailed scrutiny of his remarks left one wondering what was history and what was propaganda, distortion, highly emotive rhetoric, slandering and misrepresentation of other political viewpoints, the passing off as objective facts, things which by their very nature were totally subjective comments.

Throughout his speech he kept insisting that one must be calm, rational, and objective when discussing this most emotional of issues - abortion. Its a pity that he didn't take his own advice! Words like holocaust, slaughter, and bloodshed, phrases like tearing from the womb, forces of darkness and evil, innocent unborn, peppered his speech. Feminists language and arguments were constantly referred to and indeed misrepresented to an audience which when I looked at them, didn't quite seem to be following. When asked to clarify Life's attitude to issues like sex education, contraception, and family planning, he replied:

"Life is concerned with Life, we are not involved in other issues. We don't want to extend our concern. We've made a decision not to be concerned about other issues. These other issues are irrelevant."

One speaker reminded him about levels of poverty in Northern Ireland. He chose to ignore her point, and neither did he refer to childcare, education, poor housing, child poverty, the numbers of children murdered with plastic bullets, or indeed the massive increase in defence spending,

paid for by cuts in the Welfare State which have deprived children and their parents of basic amenities. And while state benefit for a single mother living with her parents is only £18.60, plus £7.90 for the child, less £8.55 child benefit, plus £2.55 rent contribution, no mention was made of the plight of single parents living on state benefit. It seems to me also that basically Life is anti-sex - if you don't want children, then you just don't have sex. Life in general is seen only as a chemical or biological event, it has no social, emotional, political, or qualitative existence. Once out of the womb - just forget about it.

It was difficult throughout the speech to unravel the distortions from the truths, like the apparent rejection of violence, (for them that equals abortion), yet no mention of other forms of violence such as war, rape, plastic bullets, child abuse

Janice Mill of Holywood, Co. Down, accused the LIFE organisation of throwing her out of their hostel for unmarried mothers in East Belfast. Janice showed the Sunday World newspaper a letter ordering her to leave the hostel, just a fortnight before her baby was due. It stated that she had broken rules and must leave at once although Janice maintains that she had received no written warnings about breaking rules nor did she know of any serious breach of rules apart from having her boyfriend on the premises when he shouldn't have been there.

"I was worried about my health and the effect it would have on my unborn baby. I was distressed and in a state of shock. I didn't fully realise what had happened. I knew I was homeless. What rule did I break that was so outrageous that I was put on the street by an organisation which professes care and compassion for unmarried mothers? I know there must be rules and I know at times that girls with problem pregnancies can go into moods. But no matter what they thought of me LIFE's concern should have been for my unborn child."

Questions in the Caring Seminar about conditions in the Life Hostel and inquiries about the above story were not answered by the organisers of the conference. Indeed one got the impression that Life organisation or its members running the service knew little or nothing about all the other issues that would face a mother to be. Unease was expressed by some people about rumours of pressure put on women to continue their pregnancy, or have the baby adopted. One got the distinct impression that it was only the child that mattered and not the mother.

and battering. Other speakers were to follow Scarisbrick, most of whom were a bit more sensitive to the prevailing social situation in Northern Ireland. Their speeches tended to full of caring rhetoric, how they looked after 'young girls' - as if they were the only women with unwanted pregnancies. The loving and supportive networks that they had set up which according to Mrs Jean Garland, Caring Officer provided 'positive, loving care from people who cared about them.' This care took the form of pregnancy testing, it did not include any form of counselling which indicated that they didn't have to have a child, then also they spoke about their hostel for single parents. They seemed unaware that this hostel has come in for severe criticism in the last few weeks. (See box)

In an organisation as well heeled as Life a thousand members who pay a membership fee of £3.00 each and lots of eager workers raising hundreds of pounds with local fund raising activities (I learned a thing or two about fund raising) it would seem not unreasonable to expect Life to subsidise the rent and living and board of the mother to be. Once a woman has produced the child, had it adopted, she is amongst the many single homeless in Northern Ireland. Or if she decides to keep her child she is not given points by the Housing Executive as an emergency homeless person because Life hostel is not recognised as having emergency status. They also have an ACE worker in their office - taking advantage of public subsidies!

There were several seminars held during the day but it was at the Education seminar that I felt the most serious advances had been made by the Life organisation. The man who ran the seminar openly boasted of the 'hard sell' to schools. He said "get your foot in the door. Get the names of members of staff you think are sympathetic, give free books to the library, do anything they want to get in. Ask to talk not only to sixth formers, ask to give your talk to sixth formers. Get children in school to form a Life group in their school"

He went on to make wild claims with the aid of 'impressive' statistics. When challenged on his statistics (36,000 young women in England and Wales had abortions under the age of 19, no time scale given) and the higgledy piggledy maths he had done to come up with 500 abortions for the same age group in Northern Ireland, he had the naivety to say, publicly with everyone listening and not even noticing the nonsense..... don't quote the figures publically!

Still I left that seminar very worried about what exactly was going on in schools especially Catholic ones. St. Louise's Belfast and St. Malachy's Castlewellsan have their own junior Life groups.

continued back page

NEWS SHORTS

The Ulster Pregnancy Advisory Association recently released record figures for the number of women coming to them for help and advice on abortion. In the month of January this year, 119 women sought help through the UPAA and 100 went to England for a private abortion. In an article in the Belfast Telegraph last week, the UPAA said that they would refer women who did not want to end their pregnancies to organisations like LIFE and CURA. However with the recent public unease about the quality of LIFE's hostel after 2 women were asked to leave and a housemother resigned the claims of LIFE in Northern Ireland to be a 'caring' organisation should be publicly examined.

In the autumn of last year you may remember sending off one of the few hundred postcards from Northern Ireland to the Spanish Minister for Justice demanding an amnesty for all those Spanish women on trial for having or being involved in performing abortions and calling for safe abortion to be legalised in Spain. Well, the Spanish women won their case although it will be a long struggle before abortion is made legal in Spain.

The Horizon programme on Depo Provera, long overdue attention to this subject as usual, was clever with its mixture of half truth and reassurance. Hundreds of thousands of Thai women used this contraceptive injection because they couldn't be relied on to take their pills regularly and were generally not keen with 'western' style medicine. One unmistakable example of western style contraceptive rejects was the dangerous dalkon shield shown being fitted in the programme...hardly a choice for women in third world countries.

The next publication from the Workers Research Unit is destined to become a best seller as soon as the printers stop reading it and get on with the job! 84 pages of information on the Law in Northern Ireland and a feature on the collapse of manufacturing here. A collector's item and only 80p (£1.25 outside Ireland) from Workers Research Unit c/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1 or on sale in Just Books.

"An exhaustive and illuminating study, compulsive reading at a competitive price" E.McNabb.

Apologies—W.A.R. produced the pamphlet The Rapist who pays the rent and not Women against Violence against Women as reported in the Rape Crisis interview last month.

TAPE & SLIDE SHOW

The Gaining Ground Tape and Slide Show will be shown in Scotland in the following places:-

PAISLEY — Tuesday lunchtime April 20th

GLASGOW — Tuesday evening 20th April

GLASGOW University Wednesday lunchtime 21st April

DUNDEE — Thursday evening 22nd April

ABERDEEN — Saturday evening 24th April

EDINBURGH — Tuesday evening 27th April with possible showing University on Monday or Wednesday (26th and 28th).

For further details look out for posters or contact us direct at 7 Winetavern Street Belfast 1 (0232 25426). Two other showings one in North Devon and one in North London have yet to be finalised for May, more details from Gaining Ground.

The Tape and Slide show is one and a half hours long and looks at everyday life in Northern Ireland with particular though not exclusive reference to women. There are sections on the troubles — a look at the last ten to twelve years, civil

rights, internment, H Block, Armagh, the Hunger Strike etc— followed by sections on housing, unemployment, poverty, the recession, homosexuality the womens movement both historically and in the seventies focussing on the question of abortion.

Originally, we were asked to do a speaking tour in Scotland but decided that slides would be a lot more interesting for ourselves as well as those watching! We can't pretend to know a lot about Scotland, but wherever we were able to, we related the commentary to similar circumstances in Scotland, particularly in the social sphere.

If you want us to consider further venues for the future please get in touch, especially venues in Ireland. This is primarily a tool for discussion so we would not be prepared to 'send it over without ourselves' as one London anarchist put it! Costs put up by Scottish groups have been £25 per show, obviously negotiable, to cover travel costs, so groups outside Ireland should bear this in mind. (local showings free or donation).

Finally we would like to thank everyone in Scotland for being so well organised and thoughtful. It definitely does make all the difference!



Dear Gaining Ground,

Thanks for writing the reply to my letter concerning rape/the possibility of a woman's group in Bangor and sending me the March issue and poster for International Women's Day.

In fact, so inspired was I by the interest you had shown that I decided to go ahead with an experiment/project I had been musing on for some time. The result as you can see from the enclosed was a newsheet/comment/fanzine mix based loosely on the "instant" newspaper distributed at the A Centre. The idea behind it was something which would give opportunity for comment, discussion letting off steam or whatever and also give some basic coverage to the extremely healthy music scene in Bangor. I called it an experiment as I haven't decided yet how permanent it will become but so far, reaction has been interesting and very definitely mixed. The signs are hopeful though that it will continue, with support from others for another few issues — at least enough



to expand more on women in Bangor.

Anyway, this is just a note to let you know what is happening in Bangor.

Yours A.M.H.

Good luck! I think it is us who are inspired by your determination.

The first issue of The Cattle Market free, articles on International Womens Day and what didn't happen in Bangor, The SAS and Dogmatic Element, Stalag 17 and more!

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

The title of 'International Womens Day' was thought up by Clara Zetkin, a German Socialist Feminist in 1910 and was revived by feminists in the late sixties. Now traditionally celebrated on March 8th, the Women's Movement in Belfast organised events around the whole weekend.

On March 5th a one-day conference was held at the Ulster Polytechnic to look at the provision for women here, and it was titled 'Women's Education- the Future. There was a wide representation of groups and interests at the conference, which was kicked off by Jane Thompson from England who told us about the Second Chance course she runs in Southampton. She pulled no punches as she set about describing the authoritarian and patriarchal nature of the educational system, and many of the audience were visibly uneasy as she threw myth after myth out about the nature and the supposed needs of women students, and women in the community. Those who spoke later found her very difficult to follow. These included speakers from the WEA and the OU.

After lunch Sandra Griffiths spoke about her own personal experiences of working with women in the community, it was a stimulating talk and got everyone ready for the workshops that followed. After these the conference returned to the plenary session to report back and discuss future developments. The conclusions were simple enough that this had been one of the best conferences many had ever been at and that how long would it be until the next one! Saturday afternoon saw the annual demonstration at Cornmarket. The rain was out in full force as well as the women as usual! But the demonstration and the rally was very colourful with banners and placards and the new International Women's Day banner which took four women to carry. There was a lively piece of street theatre from the Poly students lifting the lid off one woman's struggle in her home. As well as being extremely funny it made some very good and less funny points about domestic violence. After the speakers there was a march from Cornmarket to the City Hall which raised a few eyebrows in Royal Avenue as women chanted "Not the

Church, not the State—women must decide their fate".

On Saturday evening there was a concert of women artists in the Crescent, the best night we have all had in some time. It is difficult to put into words the hallowe'en like atmosphere which had been created out of the dark dismal gym and the performances of singing, acting, and poetry reading were fantastic!

Less well attended was the exhibition in the Felons Club in Andersonstown on Irish women, which was a shame as there were some unique photographs inside Armagh Gaol as well as ones of the old linen factories shop floors.

On a glorious summery day a couple of hundred people converged on Armagh, to picket the women's prison there, where 22 women remain on protest. Members of the RUC and British Army were in evidence, as usual, but the picket took place without incident, and perhaps the most worthwhile part of the exercise was when all the crowd faced the granite walls and shouted the name of each protesting prisoner in turn, followed by the message "You are not Alone!" Undoubtedly, our voices were heard by the women inside, and it will be good to hear their reaction. Part of the purpose of the picket is to focus attention on the situation of the women political prisoners, and one would, perhaps, find more encouragement, if this once-a-year-event was linked to constant activity and regular news of the situation there. Bernadette McAliskey

made the point in broader terms when she said "we owe the prisoners an assurance that this struggle and the women's struggle will be further on when they walk out of Armagh". I, for one, had been hoping that that view would be expressed. Meanwhile back in Belfast the gym in the crescent had been transformed into a Feminist Fair with stalls from womens groups and campaigns, books, badges, handicrafts, posters food, all sorts of things on sale. Throughout the afternoon there were workshops which included childcare, Irish Suffrage and Women Writers Groups etc. The beautiful weather, a day too late, or the after effects of Saturday night, may have prevented a few people turning up but attendance was good and workshops well attended.

The Reclaim the Night March was on the Monday evening. About 200 women gathered at Shaftesbury Square kitted out with torches, banners placards, balloons and sparklers and to complete the picture a nine foot dummy judge (the real one declined at the last minute!) was tied to the roofrack of the car and precariously travelled down with a banner pinned across his middle 'Don't hitch a lift in my car'. The whole march was very theatrical as it roved round the town to the Art College.

Most women then went over to the disco in the Carpenter Club, via the pub, to dance the night away with other women. A good ending to a weekend of enjoyment and much hard work which had strengthened the spirit of sisterhood between the womens groups in Belfast.



continued from page 2

Off we went for a wee rest and a three course lunch costing £3 of the £5 we had to pay to go to the conference. It was interesting to note how many fur coats were around, how many cars brought members comfortably to Newcastle.

Finally I feel this group must be seen clearly for the political views which lie hidden in the caring rhetoric. They are Northern Ireland's Moral Majority. They basically do not want people to have control over their own lives, especially women. They are impervious to arguments about the importance of a mother's health in relation to too many pregnancies, they offer adoption to

a woman who may have been raped, inside or outside marriage, they oppose sex education as a means of responsible parenthood, they oppose family planning, they see human life in a very narrow way. It seems to me that what they are really against is life. They are fundamentally not pro life but anti life in that they see human sexuality in the very narrow context of human reproduction and not as part of the human need for closeness, loving and pleasure.

The pro choice lobby, misrepresented as pro abortion, is not anti children, nor anti life but is recognising the realities of living, realising that pregnancy does not always occur as we would like it to occur in a loving, caring, accepting

situation, with all the forms of necessary emotional, financial and community support. The pro choice lobby realises that no one but the woman can make the decision whether or not to have an abortion. The pro choice lobby agitates as part of its law reform campaign to make abortion unnecessary...so that so that every pregnancy is a wanted pregnancy.....every child a wanted child, not by spouting rhetoric but in providing

all the facilities like nurseries, creches, after school care, better educational opportunities, good housing etc etc.

Ultimately Life's view of women is that we are breeders to nurture and breed children with no say in any part of the process.